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DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

CHENNAI | THURSDAY 1 | FEBRUARY 2018

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WEATHER



Max: 32°C
Min: 18°C
Rainfall: Nil

ASTROGUIDE

Hevilambi: Thai 19
Tithi: Prathamai
Star: Aayilyam
Rahukalam:
1.30 pm to 3 pm
Yamagandam:
6 am to 7.30 am
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.55 am
Zohar: 1.00 pm
Asar: 4.00 pm
Maghrib: 6.14 pm
Isha: 8.00 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.10 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.35 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 7.07 PM
MOONSET TOMORROW 7.58 AM
6.1 magnitude quake rattles Af-Pak; 1 dead, 22 injured

Islamabad/Kabul: A powerful 6.1 magnitude earthquake struck northern Afghanistan today, with the tremors felt as far away as India and Pakistan, where one girl was killed and several others injured. The quake hit at 12:37 IST near Afghanistan's northern border with Tajikistan in the Hindu Kush mountains at a depth of 191 kilometres, the US Geological Survey said.

Navy launches third Scorpene class submarine

Mumbai: The Indian Navy today launched INS Karanj, the third made-in-India Scorpene class submarine, as Naval chief Sunil Lanba called for "resolute efforts" to rev up the construction and delivery of the remaining state-of-the-art subs in the project started 12 years ago.

Counting of votes for Rajasthan bypolls today

Jaipur: Counting of votes for the Rajasthan bypolls in two Lok Sabha and one Assembly constituency, a crucial contest ahead of the Assembly elections due later this year, will take place Thursday. The counting of votes of the Alwar and Ajmer Lok Sabha seats will be done in the respective constituencies.

COUNTER POINT



While imposing taxes, rising prices use chaste Hindi... no one will understand!

Market report	
GOLD	24 ct (1 gm): ₹3,039.00 22 ct (1 gm): ₹2,900.00
SILVER	Bar (1 Kg): ₹39,170.00
INDICES	Sensex 35,965.02 pts Nifty 11,027.70 pts
EXCHANGE	US\$: ₹63.58 Euro: 79.21

Super blue blood moon captivates

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JAN.31

After the suspense of nearly two hours, the blood moon finally came out of the cloud cover around 7.40 pm on Wednesday evening in the city and enthralled thousands of enthusiasts and sky gazers who thronged city beaches and climbed rooftops to witness the rare celestial event.

People thronged the beaches to catch a glimpse of the celestial trifecta event. Thiruvanniyur beach was full of people on Wednesday evening as Tamil Nadu Science Forum arranged for

the viewing with telescopes, binoculars and a tea party to dispel superstitions that one should not eat or drink during the lunar eclipse.

The moon passed the earth at the distance of 3,64,507 km and appeared little bigger and brighter than the normal full moon. Arul Raj from Kottivakkam who visited the Thiruvanniyur beach with his family to witness the event said he was thrilled by the triple treat, a blue moon, a supermoon and total lunar eclipse. "The moon was brighter and bigger. It looked spectacular through the telescope at the total eclipse," he said.

V. Shyamala who works as an assistant professor at Loyola College had gone to the beach from Nungambakkam.

"The beaches are full of people. The moon was not reddish, it looked dark orange. It's a rare opportunity witness the event as the last event had occurred 152 years ago", she said. ■ **P2**

Lunar eclipse, the much awaited blood moon appeared slightly later than expected as people gathered to have a glimpse of rare cosmic wonder in Madurai on Wednesday.
— K. MANIKANDAN



POLITICS

Nirmala Sitharaman visits naval units in TN

4

14

SPORT

History beckons India



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TRUMP PITCH FOR VISAS ON MERIT

Washington, Jan. 31: President Donald Trump today warned that "rivals" like China and Russia were challenging America's interests, economy and values, as he tried to sell his 'America First' agenda and key immigration reforms in his first State of the Union address to a deeply divided nation.

In his 80-minute prime time address, Trump laid out a four-pillar immigration plan, one of the major debates that loomed over his first year in office, and sought the backing of the Congress for a merit-based immigration system that admits skilled people, a proposal that could benefit technology professionals from countries like India.

He also outlined a plan that would allow up to 1.8 million undocumented immigrants to remain in the country while funding a border wall with Mexico, ending the visa lottery system and reforming family immigration rules.
— Agencies

PM Modi to visit Tripura twice for campaigning

Agartala, Jan. 31: Prime Minister Narendra Modi would visit Tripura twice to hold public meetings ahead of the February 18 Assembly election, state BJP president Biplab Kumar Deb said here on Wednesday. Modi would come on February 8 and address two public meetings at Kailashahar in Unakoti district and Shantirbazar in South Tripura district.

He would again visit the state on February 15 and address a public meeting here. The party's national president Amit Shah would be in the state for a week to campaign in favour of the candidates of the BJP-Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) alliance, Deb told reporters.

— PTI

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JAN. 31

All eyes are on Union finance minister Arun Jaitley as he prepares to present the last full-fledged Union Budget on Thursday amid expectations that it will contain dramatic announcements to boost a favourable economic and political narrative before the crucial Assembly elections in eight states in 2018 and the Lok Sabha polls in 2019.

An overdose of populist sops in the Budget, say experts, will be biggest indication if Prime Minister Narendra Modi is thinking of conducting an early Lok Sabha election and will outline the plank on which BJP will contest the Parliament elections.

A more financially prudent Budget will be an indicator of the government waiting for the short-term negative impacts of GST on the GDP to fade away and job generation to bounce back before the Lok Sabha polls scheduled in May 2019.

In the Budget, Mr Jaitley has the tough task of

POPULIST OR PRAGMATIC?

This will be INDIA'S FIRST POST-GST and is being keenly watched to see what Jaitley does to boost growth in Asia's third largest economy.

The Budget may see new rural schemes and stepping up of funding towards existing programmes like MNREGA, rural housing, irrigation projects and crop insurance.



appeasing a demanding middle class, revive the rural and agriculture sectors and push growth which is at a four-year low. At the same time he will have to stick to fiscal prudence as any major deviation from it will evoke a strong reaction from investors and rating agencies - something government will like to avoid in a



Union finance minister Arun Jaitley, along with ministers of state Shiv Pratap Shukla and Pon Radhakrishnan, gives final touches to the Union Budget 2018-19 at his office at North Block in New Delhi on Wednesday.

— PTI

There is also an expectation that common man may get some RELIEF IN INCOME TAX by way of a raise in the exemption limit.

RaGa jacket fashions BJP's revenge jibe for 'suit-boot'

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JAN. 31

After the controversy and jibes over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's suit monogrammed with his name during a meeting with former US President Barack Obama, it's a pay-back time for the BJP. Late on Tuesday night, the BJP took pot-shots at the Congress president for wearing a jacket that allegedly costs ₹63,000.

Mr Gandhi was in Shillong, Meghalaya, at a rock concert organised by his party to kick-off the party's campaign for Assembly elections on February 27. Sharing the image of Mr Gandhi in his jacket, the BJP's Meghalaya unit tweeted: "So @OfficeOfRG, soot(pun intended!) boot ki sarkar with 'black' money fleeced from Meghalayan state exchequer by rampant corruption? Instead of singing away our woes, you could have given a report card of your inefficient govt in Meghalaya! Your indifference mocks us!"

The party's state unit also



Congress President Rahul Gandhi at a music concert at Shillong in Meghalaya. (Photo: Twitter / @INCMeghalaya)

tweeted an image of a Burberry jacket, similar to the one that Mr Gandhi wore, having a price tag of \$995 (little over ₹63,000). Mr Gandhi reportedly cleared the air, saying he had borrowed the jacket.

Unfazed, the Congress president fired fresh "suit-boot ki sarkar" salvos at the PM from Shillong, saying Mr Modi is always found in the company of people attired in suits and not poor people.

Senior Congress leader Renuka Chowdhury, however, reacted sharply to BJP's tweets, and said that

the BJP was leading a "suit-boot ki sarkar" at the Centre and has no moral authority to question Mr Gandhi. She said the BJP was "frustrated" due to Mr Gandhi's "rising popularity".

Attacking the Prime Minister, Ms Chowdhury said, "Those who wove (their) own name on suit, do they have any moral authority to question Rahul Gandhi's jacket? How do they know rate of the jacket? I will show the jacket can be bought at ₹700. What will they say then?"

HC restrains

Idol wing from arresting sculptor

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JAN 31

The Madras high court directed state government's chief sthropathi (sculptor) M. Muthaiah to appear before the idol wing of CID police in connection with a criminal case for hiving off 5.75 kg gold from the Somaskandar idol of Ekambaranathar temple in Kancheepuram.

Justice R. Mahadevan, before whom an anticipatory bail plea moved by Muthaiah came up for hearing on Wednesday, passed the interim order and directed Muthaiah to appear before the investigation officer for 10days. He said that a decision on the bail application can be arrived at later. When the matter came up for hearing earlier, IG A G Ponmanickavel opposed the bail plea stating that Muthaiah was a suspect and absconding for more than a month. ■ **P3**

J. VENKATESAN | DC
NEW DELHI, JAN. 31

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Madras High Court to adjudicate within two months the writ petition filed by Karti Chidambaram, son of former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram, challenging the legality of a Look Out circular issued to prevent him from going abroad.

A three-judge Bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices A.M. Kanwilkar and D.Y. Chandrachud said till the writ petition was disposed of by a Division Bench, its earlier interim order staying the High Court directions would remain in force. The High Court on August 10, 2017 stayed the LoC and allowed Karti to go abroad. In a brief order the Bench said the High Court should decide all the issues raised in the SLP filed by the CBI. It made clear that the court had not expressed any opinion on its merits. The apex court had already permitted Karti Chidambaram to go abroad once pending investigation of the case filed against him.

The CBI registered an FIR against Mr. Karti and others on May 15, 2017 for alleged irregularities in the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) clearance granted to INX Media for receiving overseas funds in 2007 when Karti's father was the Union finance minister.

LOOK OUT CIRCULARS

Top court asks HC to rule on Karti plea



Centre asks SC not to intervene in Rohingya issue

J. VENKATESAN | DC
NEW DELHI, JAN. 31

Making it clear that India cannot be allowed to become the refugee capital of the world, the Centre on Wednesday asked the Supreme Court not to intervene in the executive decision on deportation of Rohingya Muslims to Myanmar.

Additional Solicitor General Tushar Mehta made this submission before a three-judge Bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices A.M. Kanwilkar and D.Y. Chandrachud hearing a batch of petitions seeking to restrain India from deporting 40,000 Rohingyas to Myanmar.

Counsel Prashant Bhushan filed a fresh application for a direction to permit the remaining Rohingya refugees to cross the border and enter India as the BSF is thwarting their entry.

FIERY ISSUES

SHOPIAN FIRING: ARMY FILES COUNTER-FIR

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC
SRINAGAR, JAN. 31

The Shopian shooting incident is getting full of twists and turns by the day. On Wednesday, the Army filed a counter First Information Report (FIR) against unknown stone-pelters who it said forced its men to open fire resulting into the death of three youth and injuries to some others on January 27. The Army has not identified the people who, it alleged, attacked its convoy with stones in Ganowpora village of Jammu and Kashmir's southern Shopian district on that afternoon.

Kasganj youth murder: Prime accused held

Lucknow, Jan. 31: The prime accused in the murder of Chandan Gupta in Kasganj was arrested on Wednesday as the strife-torn western Uttar Pradesh town, hit by communal clashes last week, moved towards normalcy despite tension in some pockets, officials said.

The UP government submitted a report on the incidents in Kasganj to the Union home ministry conveying that the police were probing the violence and whether it was pre-planned, an official said. "Saleem, the main accused, has been nabbed," IG, Aligarh range, Sanjeev Gupta said.

Mobile video calls great boon for hearing impaired to communicate

A. ARUL PALANI
CHENNAI, JAN. 31

Kousalya, 23, hearing impaired, was indisposed recently. She was very happy when she saw Vinnarasi, a teacher in Little Flower Convent Higher Secondary School for Deaf, Nungambakkam, on a smartphone last week.

Seeing the teacher, tears rolled down her eyes and she shared her woes with her teacher. V. Vijaykumar, an accountant in a state government office, also hearing impaired, communicates easily with his wife and children.

Both Kousalya and Vijayakumar communicate with others in sign lan-



A man communicates with others in sign language with the help of video calls on social media apps.

— DC
Chronicle, Vijaykumar said "Video calling on WhatsApp and other social media network is a boon to us. We are able to communicate with our loved ones at ease and know developments from the other side." ■ **P3**



Union minister Nirmala Sitharaman reviewed central schemes in Ramanathapuram district on Wednesday

We are holding talks with EB employees to address their grievances on wage revisions and to ensure interim payments are provided

—P. Thangamani
Electricity minister



Seasonal weather to persist over Tamil Nadu

Very dense fog is likely to occur over Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Parts of Jammu and Kashmir may receive moderate rain today. Trough of low over equatorial Indian ocean and adjoining South West bay of Bengal may induce medium to rather heavy rain over eastern Sri Lanka. Another cyclonic circulation persists over Malay Peninsula and adjoining Andaman sea. Andaman islands might receive moderate rain. Moderate rain with Snowfall is likely to continue over higher altitude areas of Sikkim state. Weather in Many places over south Indian states remain dry and shallow fog may engulf in the morning.

Tamil Nadu

	31.01.2018 5:30 pm		
IN	30.6	19.8	0.0
IN AP	31.2	18.1	0.0
R	30.4	16.5	0.0
ICHY	31.8	20.8	0.0
JU	33.6	20.6	0.0
IE	31.9	18.0	0.0



Chennai - Pleasantly sunny with highs of 30C. Modest night at 20C.

Madurai - Very warm and sunny with max of 33C and min of 19C.

Coimbatore - Warm and sunny with highs of 31C. Pleasant 18C night is expected.

Tiruchy - Pleasant and sunny with comfortable highs of 31C. Night will be cool at 20C.

Vellore - Sunny and comfortable with max of 30C. Night will turn nippy at 17C.

24 HRS. HIGHLIGHTS
Kanyamumari records high of 34.1 C, while Uthagamandalam continues to be coldest at 7 C.



DGE gears up for 2018 public exams marathon

27 LAKH STUDENTS TO WRITE 3 PUBLIC EXAMS

RAGU RAMAN | DC
CHENNAI, JAN.31

The Directorate of Government Examinations (DGE) is gearing up for the exams marathon in which over 26.93 lakh students from classes 10, 11 and 12 will appear for public exams in the course of 51 days. With the usual class 10 and 12 exams, the state government has converted the class 11 exam as the public exam from this academic year. It has extended the examination calendar from around 40 days to 51 days.

“Over 8.61 lakh students have registered for class 11 exams. Last year we had 18 exam days for class 10 and 12 students. It has now increased to 29 exam days,” sources said.

Around one lakh teachers from across the state will be involved in the examination related works.

As per the schedule, the class 12 board exams will start on March 1 and end on April 16. The class 11 board exams start on March 7 and it will conclude on April 16 and class 10 exams held from March 16 to April 20.



NUMBERS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Total number of students to write class 11 and 12 exams **8,61,840, 8,66,910**

GROUPWISE BREAK UP OF STUDENT APPEARING FOR CLASS 11 AND 12 EXAMS

Group	Class 12	Class 11
Science	5,47,615	5,28,905
Arts	14,195	14,003
Commerce	2,42,349	2,61,676
Vocational	62,751	57,356
Total	8,66,910	8,61,840

The total marks for the classes 11 and 12 were reduced to 600 from 1,200. The exam hours also reduced from three hours to two and half hours.

Eligibility cum Entrance Test) based admission to the medical courses, the pressure on the invigilation officers is expected to be lesser this time. “Still, strict rules which were enforced last

year to curb malpractices in private schools last year will be implemented fully. The invigilators will not be allowed to carry cell phones to exam halls and certain pockets will have additional or permanent flying squads in place for the public exams,” a source said.

The exam schedule was devised in such a way that there was not any overlapping of exams for these three classes. But, evaluation of answer scripts will be a nightmare as the teachers have to correct over 2 crore answer sheets.

But the officials are confident that they can conduct the exams incidents free. “Currently, almost all the arrangements are in place for the public exams.”

The coordination meeting for chief educational officers is likely to take place in Madurai on February 9.

Practical exams for class 12 are starting on Thursday. They will be held from February 1 to 14. The class 11 practical exams will start on February 15 and conclude on February 28. Over 10 lakh students are expected to take part in the practical exams.

Total number of students to write class 10 exam **9,64,441**

Boys **4,83,081** Girls **4,81,360**

PRACTICAL EXAMS SCHEDULE

Class 12 February 1 to 14
Class 11 February 15 to 28



‘Once in a blue moon’ evokes enthusiastic response

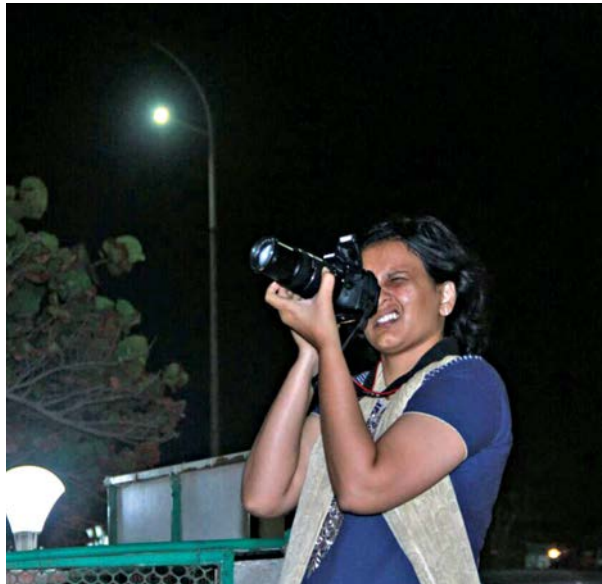
■ From P1

She also said she could not take her eyes off the moon which looked so stunning. “Though the moon rise has started at 6.04 pm, we could not see the lunar eclipse due to the cloud cover. The reddish moon finally made an appearance in the Chennai skies at around 7.45 pm and the eclipse lasted till 8.41 pm as expected”, said S.Soundararaja Perumal, joint director, Tamil Nadu Science and Technology Centre. Due to the rareness of the event, there was enormous interest among the students, enthusiasts and the general public. The Birla Planetarium alone had around 5,000 visitors on Wednesday evening. The next such event will occur on December 31, 2028.



Kids gather at Tiruvanmiyur beach and look through binoculars to see the phenomenon perfectly on Wednesday.

—DC



A woman attempts to click pictures of the moon.

—DC

₹ 2,600 CR PACKAGE FOR LEATHER, FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY UNVEILED

Chennai, Jan. 30: Union minister Suresh Prabhu on Wednesday unveiled the Central government's ₹ 2,600 crore package for the leather and footwear industry, saying it had the potential of generating over three lakh jobs and formalising another two lakh in the next three years. The Union Cabinet had last month okayed the package for employment generation in the leather and footwear sectors, with an approved expenditure of ₹2600 crore over three financial years from 2017-18 to 2019-20. “The special package has the potential to generate 3.24 lakh new jobs and assist in formalisation of two lakh jobs in three years... this is about half a million jobs (overall),” Prabhu, minister for commerce and industry, said after inaugurating the 33rd India International Leather Fair (IILF) 2018 here. Underlining the Centre's commitment to the leather industry, he said the government wanted to set up mega leather, footwear and accessories clusters and would provide infrastructure support in this regard. Prabhu, who pointed out at the implementation of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETP) in Tamil Nadu, especially for the textile sector in Tirupur, assured to provide assistance for upgradation and installation of such facilities for the leather industry also, as it would ensure that the traditional sectors work in an environment friendly manner. On the exports front, he said there has been a decline, but that efforts were on to “re-engage” with global countries, and added that India should be part of a global supply chain.

Exports should contribute towards at least 40 per cent of India's GDP, he added. For this purpose, there should be increased focus on the Make in India concept, with products being designed, developed and manufactured from the country, as only such efforts would boost exports, union minister Prabhu added. —PTI

REVENUE-SHARING BASIS

Arasu cable looks for e-seva franchise

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JAN. 31

After burning its fingers and unable to operate the E-seva centres that issues government certificates (ranging from birth, legal heir annual income and caste), Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable Corporation (TACTV) has invited expression of interest from private internet browsing centres in Chennai to franchisee its seva centres on a revenue sharing basis.

The state plans to give 1,000 franchisees in urban municipal areas of Greater Chennai covering Tiruvallur and Kancheepuram.

The project based on the success is to be extended across the state targeting rural areas, a senior government official said.

According to TACTV



PROMINENT CERTIFICATES ARE FIXED AS ₹ 60 PER SERVICE AND THE LIST INCLUDES

sources, there 659 Arasu e-Sevai centres functioning in the state and are rendering services like issuing of certificates of revenue department, social welfare department, utility bill payments, printing of

- Community certificate
- Nativity certificate
- Income Certificate
- No Graduate Certificate
- Unemployment Certificate
- Widow Certificate
- Certificate for Loss of School Records
- Inter Caste Marriage Certificate
- Other Backward Classes (OBC) Certificate
- Residence certificate
- Small / Marginal Farmer Certificate
- Solvency Certificate

Aadhaar plastic card, printing of EPIC card, passport service and smart family cards to the public. So far 1,26,03,839 persons have benefited through TACTV Arasu e-sevai centres, but there is a constant demand from public seeking more services oriented centres.

The new applicants should have an air-conditioned building space of 100 square foot to set up the Arasu e-sevai Centre. The

other basic conditions required are high speed internet computers, uninterrupted power supply, ethernet (local network connection), web cameras, external hard disks, printers, scanners Aadhar compliant biometric device, lamination equipment and photo copy machines, sources said.

The franchisee can help the public to avail 81 kinds of services including the submission forms for availing electricity connections. To obtain printouts of birth and death certificates ₹20 will be collected and for most of the other services like registrations of revenue records ₹60 will be charged.

For services like registration of boilers and licenses for drug related business ₹150 will be collected, sources added.



The battery operated car service at Egmore railway station will now start collecting ₹10 for serving the disabled and aged. The service was earlier free of cost. —DC



SRM University chancellor T.R.Pachamuthu on Wednesday presented ₹10 lakh to Tamil development minister 'MaFoi' K Pandiarajan for setting up Tamil chair at Harvard University

DECCAN CHRONICLE

Politics

PAGE 4

THURSDAY | 1 FEBRUARY 2018 | CHENNAI

Nobody can destroy Congress party

—V. Narayanasamy
Puducherry CM

OTHER STORIES Vellayan appointed IIM-Kozhikode chairman

Kozhikode: A Vellayan, executive chairman of the Murugappa group, has been appointed as the chairman of the Society and Board of Governors of IIM, Kozhikode. He is an alumnus of well known educational institutions such as Doon School, Siram College of Commerce, Aston University, U.K. and University of Warwick Business School, U.K., a release from the IIM-K said.

Vellayan has been honoured with Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) by Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and Aston University, UK. Vellaian, Chairman of Coromandal International Ltd, EID Parry (India) and Murugappa Holdings, is also associated with various organisations, including Ambadi Investments (P) Ltd., Kanoria Chemicals an Industries and Foskor Pty.Ltd, South Africa.



Lt Governor Kiran Bedi with Kathijathul Hidayah. — DC

Bedi felicitates Neet topper in Pondy

Puducherry, Jan. 31: Puducherry Lt Governor Kiran Bedi felicitated the Neet topper for her achievement.

On perusal of the news of Kathijathul Hidayah, a native of Puducherry, who bagged the first rank in this year's Dental postgraduate Neet (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) the Lt Governor invited her to office.

Ms Hidayah along with her family members visited Raj Nivas on Wednesday. The Lt Governor congratulated her for the securing first rank in the examination in all India level and wished her a prospective career. On request of the Lt Governor Ms Hadhiya shared her journey to success. Sharing her story of success would inspire the student community, said the Lt Governor.

Ms Hidayah has a score of 702 out of 960 in the nationwide examination. She was a student of Mahatma Gandhi Government Dental College here and worked in JIPMER for a year before taking a break to prepare for Neet examination.

She is the daughter of BA Sameemullah, a former air force official who passed away last year and S. Nasreen Banu.

Budget will allocate funds for TN, says Dy CM

Coimbatore, Jan 31: Deputy Chief Minister O. Paneerselvam on Thursday expressed confidence that the Union budget will allocate the required funds for Tamil Nadu. Talking to reporters at the airport here, Paneerselvam said the budget, to be presented tomorrow, would provide funds necessary for various projects as sought by the state. On the Cauvery issue, he said it was the right of Tamil Nadu to seek its share of Cauvery water and similarly it was the duty of Karnataka to release it to the state. The government was exerting pressure on the Neet issue, during every meeting with the Prime Minister, he said. State Education minister K. A. Sengottaiyan recently said the government's policy was to get exemption from National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Neet) and it had been urging the Centre continuously to make the change. — PTI



Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman visited the Naval units INS Parundu and INS Kattabomman near Uchipuli in Ramanathapuram district on Wednesday. — DC

Nirmala Sitharaman visits naval units in TN

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JAN. 31

Defence Minister Nirmala on Wednesday visited naval units, INS Parundu and INS Kattabomman in south Tamil Nadu, where she interacted with officers and sailors. She visited INS Parundu Naval Air Station at Uchipuli in Ramanathapuram District. Later, accompanied by Vice Admiral

Karambir Singh, she visited INS Kattabomman in Tirunelveli district. She was briefed on the unit's activities by Captain Vishal Gupta, the Commanding Officer, a Defence release said.

Naval Air Station Ramnad, which was established as a Forward Operating Base, was commissioned as INS Parundu on 26 March 2009. INS Parundu operates a variety of aircraft

including helicopters, medium range and remotely piloted aircraft for surveillance along south Tamil Nadu coast.

INS Kattabomman, commissioned on 20 October 1990, forms a vital link in communication chain of the Indian Navy and also provides logistic and administrative support for ships and submarines visiting Tuticorin Port, the release said.

DENTAL CHECK UP FOR KARUNANIDHI

CHENNAI: DMK chief M Karunanidhi was on Wednesday taken to a private hospital for dental check up. After the teeth cleaning, Karunanidhi was brought back to his Gopalapuram residence.

Karunanidhi has been confined to his home since October 2016 and was admitted to private hospital twice for age-related illness. Sources said the cleaning lasted less than an hour.



SHENOY NAGAR, MOUNT METRO WAITING TIME REDUCED

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JAN. 31

Bringing cheers to commuters, Chennai metro has reduced the waiting time from existing 10 minutes to 7 minutes between Shenoy Nagar and St Thomas Mount during peak hours. The changes in the timetable simply mean commuters can catch a train every seven minutes at the stations on the Shenoy Nagar-St. Thomas Mount corridor from Thursday.

At present, the frequency is 9-10 minutes during peak hours and 20 minutes during non-peak hours. From Thursday, trains will run in every seven minutes between Shenoy Nagar and St Thomas Mount during peak hours - from 8.30am to 10.30am and from 5pm to 8.30pm.

CMRL is introducing the new time table following a traffic survey which showed that the maximum number of officegoers travel between Shenoy Nagar and St Thomas Mount.



A team of trainee IAS officers at Ripon Buildings in the city is briefed about the working of the drone used to monitor welfare measures. — DC

TN can't progress without Centre's support: Tamilisai

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JAN. 31

BJP state president Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan endorsed her party senior and Union Minister of State for Finance and Shipping Pon Radhakrishnan's assertion that he too is a 'Pachchai Tamizhan,' (a true-blood Tamil) has said that the State cannot progress without the Centre's support.

"As the BJP is ruling at the Centre only our party could ensure more development and welfare to TN," she said. Dr Tamilisai claimed that the Dravidian parties in Tamil Nadu created an impression among the people that the BJP is against

the Tamils. "It is not so we are also Dravidians. The BJP here is a state party with national feeling and as a national party we have concern for Tamil Nadu and its people," she said on Wednesday. She claimed that the Dravidian parties in TN projected themselves as the custodians of Tamils but was not correct. "We are not inferior to them in any way. We have been voicing the concerns of the Tamils and striving for the welfare of TN," she said and claimed that this has prompted Mr. Radhakrishnan to say he was a Dravidian.

Reacting to the Andal controversy, Mr Radhakrishnan had recently remarked that he too was

a 'Pachchai Tamizhan,' and that his BJP is also a Dravidian party in so far as TN was concerned. He also claimed that the junior Pontiff of the Kanchi Kamakoti Muth Sri Vijayendra Saraswathi Swamy was intentionally raised by those with vested interest to divert poet Varirumuthu's controversial remark against Goddess Andal.

DrTamilisai who earlier in the day launched online application forms for civic bodies polls for the party members to seek permission to contest the polls, at the party headquarters - Kamalalayam, here, said the BJP would prove its strength in the civic bodies election.

B. VIJAYALAKSHMI | DC
CHENNAI, JAN. 31

Eminent musicologist and musician Dr Premeela Gurumurthy took charge as vice-chancellor of Tamil Nadu Music and Fine Arts University on Wednesday. She is probably the first musician adept in Carnatic, Hindustani and Tamil devotional music to occupy the VC chair. A former dean of music department in Vels University and also the former president and the chairperson of the School of Fine and Performing Arts, professor and head, department of Indian music, University of Madras, Premeela has been the brain

behind the launching of new and specialised courses in Madras university. Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle* after assuming charge as VC, Premeela said, "I am happy. It is new and a challenging assignment and I am looking forward to it." Besides being a dedicated teacher, as musicologist Premeela has specialised in areas of ancient Tamil music, its history and composers. She said, "Not always you can become a performer in 2 years. But definitely there is scope for research which interested students can always try their hand." When asked about response to music courses, Premeela said, "Steps can be taken to improve student strength in music colleges."

She has performed several hundreds of concerts, delivered musical discourses and lecture demonstrations in India and abroad and won prestigious awards. Her contribution to the kathakalashabham, an ancient art form, has been tremendous. In December 2017, Premeela's students organised a programme and honoured her to mark 50 years of her concert performances.

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami hands over appointment order to Dr Premeela Gurumurthy, the new VC of Tamil Nadu Music and Fine Arts University at Secretariat on Wednesday. — DC

■ Ryots assn welcomes CM decision to meet Siddaramaiah

Karnataka must release Cauvery water: Farmers

G. SRINIVASAN | DC
THANJAVUR, JAN. 31

Farmers of the Cauvery delta districts, by and large, welcomed the move of Chief Minister Edappadi K.Palaniswami to take a delegation to Bengaluru and ask his counterpart for Cauvery water to save the samba crop. S.Ranganathan, secretary of the Cauvery delta farmers' welfare association, welcomed the move and said, "Though late, better late than never. Karnataka should view this on humanitarian grounds and not as a dispute. Three wettings are necessary now for 80 per cent of the standing crop and Karnataka can release 15 tmc ft in instalments - 8 tmc ft first and the rest a little later."

Karnataka should not be rigid in its stand. Even if it considers this as a dispute, it knows that it has to release water on a pro-rata basis monthly from its total of 192 tmc ft of water, as per the final award of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. Karnataka Chief Minister Siddharamaiah can depute a delegation to see how serious the issue in Tamil Nadu. Small and marginal farmers will be the worst hit if the crop is



Paddy crop in need of water in a Thanjavur village. — DC

lost and farm labourers have no source of income. If water is released from Kabini it will take 10 days for water to reach Tamil Nadu and hence Karnataka should consider our demand immediately and meet our chief minister," said Ranganathan.

P.Shanmugham, general secretary of the Tamil Nadu Vivasayigal Sangam affiliated to the CPI(M), also welcomed the move by the Chief Minister but said that it was late. It would have been timely if he had taken this decision a little earlier. However, we want water now to save the standing samba crop and welcome the move, he told *Deccan Chronicle* over phone. Sami Nadarajan, district secretary of the Sangam, also said that the move was welcome, though

belated.

V.Durai Manickam, general secretary of the Tamil Nadu Vivasayigal Sangam affiliated to the CPI, said that the Chief Minister should take an all party delegation to Bengaluru. "When our Chief Minister made such a request earlier, the Karnataka Chief Minister flatly refused to release water. Now it is better if an all party delegation is taken to Bengaluru by our Chief Minister to demand water. The situation here is serious and there is danger of losing the entire samba crop in one week if the crops are not watered. "This should have occurred to our Chief Minister earlier. Only after rail rokos organised by farmers' associations and opposition parties, did it dawn upon him to meet the

8 TMC FT FIRST, REST LITTLE LATER

■ Three wettings are necessary now for 80 per cent of the standing crop and Karnataka can release 15 tmc ft in instalments - 8 tmc ft first and the rest a little later.

■ In Thanjavur district, samba crop has been cultivated so far over 1,23,368 hectares. Of this, direct sowing has been done over 25,012 hectares and transplantation over 98,356 hectares. An equal area each has been cultivated in Tiruvavur and Nagapattinam districts.

Karnataka Chief Minister. We have been demanding water for the past one month," Durai Manickam said.

However, Sundara Vimalanathan, secretary, Thanjai district Cauvery farmers protection association, said that the move was very late and nothing tangible would come out of this.

CM should meet Prez, PM on Neet, says Stalin

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JAN. 31

DMK working president M K Stalin on Wednesday demanded that Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami immediately rush to New Delhi to meet President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking nod for the bill seeking exemption for students from Tamil Nadu from appearing before Neet.

In a statement here, Stalin accused the AIADMK Government of "doing nothing" to ensure that Tamil Nadu is exempted from Neet, while recalling a bill passed in the state assembly that seeks doing away with the national entrance examination.

He also accused the Union Government of bringing the Neet only to ensure that "students from rural areas and those belonging to backward and most backward classes" don't become doctors. "The Tamil Nadu Assembly unanimously passed a bill seeking exemption from Neet and it is pending before the Union Government for the past one year. Moreover, the Centre is planning to set up National Medical Commission that seeks to take away the rights of the state governments," Stalin alleged.

The DMK leader said the AIADMK Government, which passed the Bill in the Assembly, has gone into "silent mode" since then and none of their MPs have raised the issue in Parliament. Moreover, the state government has failed in its promise of establishing Neet coaching centres



DMK working president M.K. Stalin on Wednesday visited his Kolathur constituency. — DC

WILL BUILD MODERN MARRIAGE HALL IN KOLATHUR: STALIN

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JAN. 31

DMK working president M. K. Stalin has announced to establish a modern marriage hall in his Kolathur constituency, soon.

"Accepting the demand of the people, a modern Thirumana mandapam will be built in Kolathur and it will hall all amenities for the benefit of the people," Mr. Stalin said on Wednesday. Speaking to reporters here he said, the DMK would convene an all political party meeting on Feb. 6, to chalk out the next course of action on its demand to the state government to roll-back the enhanced bus fares.

He welcomed Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami's initiative to meet his Karnataka counterpart on the Cauvery issue and said though delayed, the move is welcome.

across with parents alleging that the training was not at par with those centres run by the private sector.

"Since the Neet for this year is scheduled on May 6, the DMK demands that the Centre immediately give its ascent to the Tamil Nadu Bill seeking exemption

from Neet. The Chief Minister should immediately meet the President and Prime Minister seeking nod for the Bill. The AIADMK has also failed to explain the positives of the entrance exam abolition bill passed by DMK in 2006," the Opposition leader said.





Forest minister Dindigul C. Sreenivasan conducted review meeting with officials on Tantea performance

I will never leave BJP. I will continue to be with the BJP till my last breath

—Tamilisai Soundararajan
TN BJP chief



SHORT TAKES
Gang steals ₹1.68L from garment exporter

Tirupur: A gang has stolen ₹1.68 lakh from a garment exporter by diverting his attention in Tirupur. According to police, Lakshmanan, 38, a resident of Madhappur near Tirupur, is running a garment manufacturing unit at Palladam. On Tuesday evening he withdrew ₹1.68 lakh from a bank branch in Tirupur near Eswareman Temple. He kept the cash bag inside his car. Meanwhile, someone has sprayed a liquid on him. He was shocked about it and due to irritation, he went to a nearby shop for cleaning it.

Salary cut enforced on transport strikers

S. THIRUNAVUKARASU
| DC
CHENNAI, JAN. 31

Hefty salary cuts are being imposed on the employees of the state transport corporations who had struck work earlier this month as the government has applied the 'no-work-no-pay' norm to them. Over a lakh transport employees had been on strike during Jan 5-11 demanding increased wages and retirement benefits.

Not all the workers remained on strike till the agitation was called off late Jan 11, so the salary cuts would affect the most only for those who remained off duty for the entire strike period, clarified a senior transport official.

He said the salary cuts could range between ₹3500 and ₹10,000, depending on the salary drawn for each worker and the period of his/her strike. The circular regarding the salary cuts had been sent to the managing directors of all the eight



● Pay cut can range between ₹3,500 and ₹10,000 depending on the salary drawn for each worker and the period of strike

state transport corporations.

“This decision has jolted us”, said M. Shanmugam of the Labour Progressive Front, the opposition DMK’s labour wing.

“We will discuss this with the other unions and move the high court on Monday”.

When the state transport minister M.R. Vijayabhaskar told the strikers they would not face punishment if they returned to duty, it appeared that the transport workers assumed that their period of strike would be treated as duty and there would be no salary cuts. But the government circular announcing the hefty cuts has now come as a big shocker.

State comes forward to help injured Dhanyasri

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JAN. 31

The four-year-old child injured after a man fell on top of her from a multi-storey building in Tondiarpet earlier this week continues to be critical and the state health department on Wednesday assured the child’s family of adequate medical support.

Responding to the media reports which explained the financial burden of the family in treating the child, health minister C. Vijayabhaskar called on family members of Dhanyasri and assured all medical assistance to the kid.

The minister comforted the parents and discussed the treatment given to the kid, said Selvakumar, a family friend of Dhanyasri’s father Sreedharan.

“The family is unable to think and we are nodding our heads for all the modalities insisted by the hospital and all we want is our kid back in a healthy condition, said a relative of the girl.

The doctors at Apollo have decided to do multiple surgeries on the child who had sustained critical injuries on head, neck and spine due to the collision and the girl is constantly under intensive care and we are hoping for the recovery of the girl at the earliest,” hospital sources said.

CASE REGISTERED: The city police had registered a case against Mr Shiva, the man who had slipped from the second floor in an inebriated condition. Shiva with minor injuries is also under treatment. Police have registered a case against the youngster for causing grievous hurt endangering the child’s life.

Govt. of Bihar

Department of Science & Technology
Invites

RFP For Selection of Master Planning Consultant for Development of An Astro-Tourism Project in Bihar

Department of Science & Technology invites request for proposal (RFP) for appointment of Master Planning Consultants in order to develop a Project on Astro-Tourism in Bihar involving places associated with renowned Astronomer and Mathematician “The Aryabhata” namely Khagual, Taragana (Masaudhi) and Taregana Top. The Project comprises of setting up astronomy activity centers, theme based area development, setting up of observatory etc and eventually serving a centre of attraction for tourism in general with element of historical and astronomical highlights attributable to “Aryabhata.” **Submission of RFP**

The eligibility criteria, submission, requirement and other details can be downloaded from the official website of department (www.dst.bih.nic.in). The RFP document can also be obtained from the office of Project Director. BCST/Director, Department of Science & Technology on payment of Rs. 5000/- (Five Thousand) in the form of Demand Draft in favour of Project Director BCST, Payable at Patna.

In case of downloaded RFP a separate Demand Draft towards cost of RFP should be attached at the time of submission of proposals.

The RFP and the accompanying documents must be submitted no later than 20th March 2018 at 1500 hours in a sealed envelope clearly labeled “RFP for Selection of Master Planning consultant for Development of An Astro-Tourism Project in Bihar” addressed to Project Director, Bihar Council on Science and Technology, Department of Science and Technology Planetarium Building (Taramandal), Bailey Road, Patna-800001, Bihar, India.

For Further information please contact Project Director, Bihar Council on Science and Technology, Patna Phone: +916122235264 Fax 0612-2230432 Email: pd@bcst.org.in.

Director

Department of Science and Technology
Bihar, Patna

PR. No. 13100 (Science & Tech) 2017-18

बिटिया मेरी अभी पढ़ेगी, शादी की सूली नहीं चढ़ेगी।



Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY

Sampige Road, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560 012
Fax: 080-23461576 Website: http://kea.kar.nic.in E-mail: keaauthority-ka@nic.in

No. ED/KEA/ADMN/CR-08/2017-18

Date: 30.01.2018

CET-2018 - ADMISSION TO PROFESSIONAL COURSES IN THE STATE
OF KARNATAKA FOR THE YEAR 2018-19

- As per Rule 6 (3) & Rule 7 of *Karnataka Selection of Candidates for Admission to Government seats in Professional Educational Institutions Rules 2006 (Amendments)* and pursuant to the directions of the Government, Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) is inviting applications from the eligible Karnataka Candidates including the ward/s of Jammu & Kashmiri migrants for conduct of “**Common Entrance Test-2018**” as per the following time table for the purpose of determining the eligibility / merit, for admission to the First year or First semester of full time courses for Government share of seats in Engineering, Technology, B. Pharma, 2nd year B. Pharma, Pharma-D courses and Farm Science courses detailed below, in Government / University / Private Aided / Private Un-Aided Professional Educational Institutions in the State of Karnataka for the academic year 2018-19 as per the seat matrix to be notified by Government.
- The candidates who wish to seek admission to Medical or Dental or AYUSH courses must compulsorily qualify in the **NEET - 2018** (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) exam conducted by the CBSE Board, New Delhi; and for admission to Architecture course candidate should compulsorily qualify in NATA (National Aptitude Test in Architecture) conducted by the Council of Architecture or JEE Paper-2 examination to get the eligibility for admission to Medical / Dental / AYUSH / Architecture courses through KEA for Government share of seats. (As per COA information, NATA is scheduled to be held on 29.04.2018, visit www.nata.in for more details.)
- Eligibility :** As per Rule 5 (1) of *Karnataka Selection of Candidates for Admission to Government seats in Professional Educational Institutions Rules, 2006 (Amendments)* No candidate shall be eligible for admission to Government Seats unless he is a citizen of India and satisfies any one of the eligibility conditions hosted on the KEA Website http://kea.kar.nic.in. The candidates who do not satisfy any of the Clauses / Eligibility Criteria are not eligible for admission to professional courses under Government quota seats through KEA.
- Academic Eligibility and criteria for determination of merit :

Sl. No.	For Admission to 1st Year	Eligibility, In Qualifying Examination, candidate should have	Criteria for Determination of Merit / Rank
1	Medical / Dental Courses (MBBS / BDS)	Passed in 2nd PUC / 12th Std / Equivalent Exam with English as one of the Languages and obtained a Minimum of 50% of Marks in aggregate in Physics, Chemistry, Biology subjects. (40% for SC, ST, Cat-1, 2A, 2B, 3A and 3B category candidates)	The norms prescribed in NEET / NATA / JEE Paper-2; Admission Rules; relevant Government orders is applicable in determining the merit for admission to Medical / Dental / AYUSH / Architecture courses as the case may be.
2	AYUSH - courses Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Homoeopathy	Passed in 2nd PUC / 12th Std / Equivalent Exam with English as one of the Languages and obtained a Minimum of 50% of Marks in aggregate in Physics, Chemistry, Biology subjects. (40% for SC, ST, Cat-1, 2A, 2B, 3A and 3B category candidates)	
3	Architecture course (B.Arch)	Passed in 2nd PUC / 12th Std / Equivalent Exam with Mathematics as Compulsorily optional subject and obtained a Minimum of 50% of Marks in aggregate in all the subjects. (45% for SC, ST, Cat-1, 2A, 2B, 3A and 3B category candidates)	
4	Engineering / Technology courses (B.E. / B.Tech)	Passed in 2nd PUC / 12th Std / Equivalent Exam with English as one of the Languages and obtained a Minimum of 45% of Marks in aggregate in Physics and Mathematics along with Chemistry / Bio-Technology / Biology / Electronics / Computer. (40% for SC, ST, Cat-1, 2A, 2B, 3A and 3B category candidates)	By taking marks in equal proportions in QE and CET in PCM subjects. (No Minimum Marks prescribed in CET)
5	Farm Science courses means, B.Sc. (Hons) Agriculture, B.Sc. (Hons) Sericulture, B.Sc. (Hons) Horticulture, B.Sc. (Hons) Forestry, B.Sc. Agri Bio Tech, B.H.Sc. (Home Science), B.Tech (Agri. Engg), B.Tech (Food Technology), B.Tech (Dairy Tech), B.F.Sc. (Fisheries), B.Tech (Food Science & Tech), B.Sc. (Hons) Agri Marketing & Co-Op.	Passed in 2nd PUC / 12th Std. / Equivalent exam with Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Biology as optional subjects. a. In the case of Agriculturist Quota, the merit list will be prepared based on 25% marks each, secured in concerned combinations in II year PUC (PCMB) & CET and 50% marks secured in the Practical Test. In case of B.V.Sc. & AH merit will be prepared based on 50% of Marks secured in CET (Physics, Chemistry and Biology) and 50% of marks scored in the practical test. b. Minimum of 50% marks in Practical Examination is required to claim seat under Agriculturist Quota. Further, Agriculturist Quota is applicable only for courses detailed in Sl. No. 5 and 6.	By taking marks in equal proportions in QE and CET in PCMB subjects. (No Minimum Marks prescribed in CET)
6	Bachelor of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry (B.V.Sc. & A.H.)	Passed in 2nd PUC / 12th Std. and obtained an aggregate minimum of 50% marks in Physics, Chemistry, Biology and English subjects. (40% for SC, ST, Cat-1, 2A, 2B, 3A and 3B category candidates)	Only on the basis of marks obtained in PCB in CET. (No Minimum Marks prescribed in CET.)
7	B-Pharma	Passed in 2nd PUC / 12th Std with Physics, Chemistry and Biology or Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics and obtained a Minimum of 45% of Marks in aggregate in Physics, Chemistry, Biology subjects. (40% for SC, ST, Cat-1, 2A, 2B, 3A and 3B category candidates.) OR Passed in Diploma in Pharmacy Examination from an institution approved by the Pharmacy Council of India Under Section 12 of the Pharmacy Act and has secured minimum of 45% marks. (40% for SC, ST, Cat-1, 2A, 2B, 3A and 3B category candidates)	Only on the basis of marks obtained in PCM or PCB Subjects (whichever is higher) in CET. (No Minimum Marks prescribed in CET.)

Sl. No.	For Admission to 1st Year	Eligibility, In Qualifying Examination, candidate should have	Criteria for Determination of Merit / Rank
8	2nd Year B.Pharma	Passed in Diploma in Pharmacy Examination from an institution approved by the Pharmacy Council of India Under Section 12 of the Pharmacy Act and has secured minimum of 45% marks. (40% for SC, ST, Cat-1, 2A, 2B, 3A and 3B category candidates)	Only on the basis of marks obtained in PCM or PCB Subjects (whichever is higher) in CET. (No Minimum Marks prescribed in CET).
9	Pharma-D	Passed in 2nd PUC / 12th Std with Physics, Chemistry and Biology or Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics. OR Passed in Diploma in Pharmacy Examination from an institution approved by the Pharmacy Council of India Under Section 12 of the Pharmacy Act.	Only on the basis of marks obtained in PCM or PCB Subjects (whichever is higher) in CET. (No Minimum Marks prescribed in CET).

5. How to Apply?

Step 1:	Enter all the details through ONLINE by browsing URL on website http://kea.kar.nic.in by selecting “CET-2018 UG Online Application”. After completion of entry of all the details candidate’s will receive an application ID and Password to their registered mobile phone number and to email address and also the same information will be displayed on the screen.
Step 2:	Upload the scanned copy of recent passport size Colour Photograph, Signature and Left Hand Thumb Impression in JPG / JPEG format separately.
Step 3:	Print the Challan copy which is in triplicate. In the Challan, the details of the candidate will be pre-printed, such as Name, CET Number, College / Course Alloted details, Fee to be paid, Bank Account Number. Candidates of Karnataka origin have to pay an amount of Rs. 650/- for General and OBC (Rs.500/- for SC / ST Category-1 of Karnataka candidates only). Rs.750/- in case of candidates residing outside the state of Karnataka and Rs.5,000/- in case of candidates residing outside India. The candidates have to pay the requisite fee in any of the branch of the Banks specified. The bank will retain bank copy of the Challan with them and handover the remaining two copies of the Challan to the candidates. The candidates who are residing outside India shall pay the fees in the form of Demand Draft drawn in favour of Executive Director, Karnataka Examinations Authority, payable at Bangalore, the demand draft should be sent to KEA address by mentioning the application number.
Step 4:	Take a printout of the application form on A-4 size paper. Obtain Principal seal and signature from the college where you have studied 2nd PUC or 12th Standard on the space provided in the printed form. The same copy should be produced during document verification.

Note: (i) Candidates should note down their application ID and Password until the completion of filling up of the online application. Candidate has to enter all the required details in the form, failing which their application will not be considered. Candidates are not allowed to edit their application after selecting declaration / taking the final printout. The candidate who fails to upload the Photo / Signature / LTM OR who fails to pay the fees within the prescribed date and time, such candidate's application form will not be considered as valid and they will not be eligible for further process.
(ii) A candidate who had obtained a seat in any discipline through KEA (CET Cell) in any of the previous years and not surrendered the seat before the last date fixed for entry of options for final round of seat allotment for the respective disciplines will not be eligible for allotment of a seat to the same discipline during 2018. However, he / she is eligible to appear for CET-2018 for allotment of seat in any other discipline as per rule 15 (5) of Karnataka Selection of Candidates for Admission to Government seats in Professional Educational Institutions Rules, 2006.

01	Entry of Application Online	From 11:00 am on 01.02.2018 to 26.02.2018 up to 5:30 pm
02	Last date to pay the application fees in the bank	28.02.2018 (during banking hours)
03	Date of downloading of Admission Tickets by all the eligible Applicants	From 11:00 am on 10.04.2018

Common Entrance Test - 2018 Time Table

Date	Day	Timings	Subject	Marks
18.04.2018	WEDNESDAY	10:30 am - 11:50 am 02:30 pm - 03:50 pm	Biology Mathematics	60 60
19.04.2018	THURSDAY	10:30 am - 11:50 am 02:30 pm - 03:50 pm	Physics Chemistry	60 60

KANNADA LANGUAGE TEST ONLY FOR HORANADU AND GADINADU KANNADIGA CANDIDATES - only in Bangalore.

20.04.2018	FRIDAY	11:30 am to 12:30 pm	Kannada Language Examination (4th Standard level)	50
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The minimum passing marks shall be 12 out of 50 marks in Kannada Language Examination in order to be considered for assignment of ranks and to become eligible for allotment of seats in CET - 2018

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION and Practical Examination Time Table for Agriculturist Quota

21.04.2018 to 25.04.2018 (Except General Holidays) 9:00 am to 3:30 pm	Verification of Documents for Agriculturist at the respective Practical Test Centres
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Date	Day	Timings	Subject	Marks
27.04.2018	Friday	9:00 am onwards	PRACTICAL EXAMINATION on “Identification of Agriculture Related Specimens” TO CLAIM SEAT UNDER AGRICULTURIST QUOTA*	200

NOTE : Eligibility criteria detailed above for different courses and the subsequent admission by KEA to the above courses and admission made by the colleges is subject to approval by the Government / concerned University / Apex Bodies.

Sd/- (Sameer Shukla, IAS)
Executive Director

DIPR/DBSU/1832/2017-18

For more details candidates are requested to visit KEA Website http://kea.kar.nic.in
KEA Helpline Nos.: 080- 23 460 460 (Five Lines) 9:30 am to 6:00 pm (except General Holidays)



BJP MP Shatrughan Sinha says only time will tell what political choices he makes during the next Lok Sabha polls

I told L-G that traders have been facing a lot of problems due to sealing. We need to work together for them



— Arvind Kejriwal
Delhi CM

IN BRIEF
Light combat copter makes maiden flight

New Delhi: Marking another landmark in the “Make in India” initiative, the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited carried out the first flight of Light Combat Helicopter (Technology Demonstrator-2) with its own designed and developed Automatic Flight Control System (AFCS) for the first time in the country. The maiden flight was flawless and flew for 20 minutes with the engagement of the system throughout.

Fake diamonds sold for ₹1.2cr

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad police has arrested two men for allegedly duping a businessman of 1.20 crore by selling him a fake diamond. Mohd. Ather Siddique (52) and Mohd Salam Khan (39), who are in the pearls and gems business, were arrested from Abids area based on a complaint filed by the businessman, city police commissioner V.V. Srinivas Rao said. Siddique and Khan allegedly offered him a “25-carat diamond piece”, according to the complainant.

Separatist's bail plea rejected

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Thursday denied bail to Kashmiri separatist leader Shabir Shah in a 2007 money-laundering case, noting the Enforcement Directorates charge that he took money from Pakistan to create unrest in the Valley. The court took note of the submission that “Shah is involved in channelising illegal money sourced from Pakistan, avoiding banking channels, to fund terror organisations in J and K.”

IAF officer held on charge of spying

New Delhi: An IAF officer has been taken into custody by the force for alleged involvement in spying, official sources said on Wednesday. The officer posted here was indulging in certain unwanted activities through unauthorised electronic devices, they said. The “unwanted” activities by the officer were discovered during routine counter-intelligence surveillance. The IAF officially did not comment on the matter. The identity and rank of the officer has been kept secret.

QUAKE HITS NORTH INDIA; 1 DEAD IN PAK

Islamabad/Kabul, Jan. 31: A powerful 6.1 magnitude earthquake struck northern Afghanistan on Wednesday, with the tremors felt as far away as India and Pakistan, where one girl was killed and several others injured. The quake hit at 12:37 pm near Afghanistan's northern border with Tajikistan in the Hindu Kush mountains at a depth of 191 kilometres, the US Geological Survey said. The epicentre was in Jurm district of Afghanistan's Badakhshan Province. In Kabul, at least two heavy tremors were felt which sent people running out on the streets. Three persons were injured in Afghanistan's Jurm district, an official said. Jurm is the same area which was the centre of a devastating 7.5 magnitude quake in October 2015 that triggered landslides and flattened buildings, killing more than 380 people across the region, a news agency said. Across the border in Pakistan, homes, offices and schools were quickly evacuated in Islamabad, Peshawar and Lahore. Mild tremors were also felt in New Delhi. In Pakistan's Quetta town, one girl was killed after the roof of her house collapsed during the earthquake.

Main accused in Kasganj case held

Chandan's death triggered clashes on R-Day

DC CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW, JAN. 31

Salim, the main accused in the murder of Chandan Gupta in Kasganj, was arrested on Wednesday. Salim had allegedly opened fire at the Tiranga rally in which Chandan Gupta, 22, was killed. He had been absconding after the incident.

Salim's brothers, Wasim and Nasim, have also been named as the main accused in the killing of Chandan Gupta. The three brothers have been booked under Section 302 of the IPC.

Chandan's death had led to communal clashes in Kasganj.

IG Aligarh, Sanjeev Gupta said that Salim, son of Barkatullah, had been arrested from Kasganj. Uttar Pradesh DGP O.P. Singh told reporters that the situation in Kasganj was returning to normal and Salim had given vital information about the Republic Day clashes.

The arrest came a day after the police had put up a seizure notice at the house of the accused. Kasganj SP Piyush Srivastava said notices pertaining to attachment



Salim

A CONGRESS delegation that was on its way to Kasganj was stopped by district officials on Wednesday in Mirhachi area on the border of Kasganj district.

of properties of the accused had been pasted on their houses. Tension continues in some pockets of Kasganj though no fresh incident of violence has been reported in the past 24 hours.

A Congress delegation that was on its way to Kasganj was stopped by district officials on Wednesday in Mirhachi area in Etah on the border of Kasganj district.

U.P. SENDS RIOTS REPORT TO CENTRE

DC CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW, JAN. 31

The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has sent a report to the Centre giving details of the communal violence in Kasganj, where a person was killed on the Republic Day.

Meanwhile, the UP police in on tenterhooks about the Vishwa Hindu Parishad's (VHP) declaration that it will take out Tiranga Yatras across Uttar Pradesh soon.

The first Tiranga Yatra led by VHP vice-president of Braj region, Sunil Parashar, began its journey in Agra on Wednesday but was terminated almost as soon as it began from Shaheed Smarak.

District magistrate Gaurav Dayal and SSP Amit Pathak reached the spot and took the memorandum from the activists who were forced to disperse when they started shouting slogans.



T'gana BJP: Shotgun, Yashwant should quit

Hyderabad, Jan. 31: A day after veteran BJP leader Yashwant Sinha launched a political platform that was joined by a number of politicians led by BJP MP Shatrughan Sinha, the Telangana unit of the party on Wednesday said that the two leaders have “crossed all the limits” and should quit the BJP.

After months of sniping at the BJP, disgruntled leader Yashwant Sinha on Tuesday launched the political platform named “Rashtra Manch” in New Delhi.

The new political platform seeks to take on the Centre and will start a movement against its policies, the former Union finance minister had said.

Shatrughan Sinha said he had not been given a forum in the party for expressing his views, but added that his decision to back the front should not be seen as an anti-party activity as it was in national interest.

Telangana BJP spokesperson Krishna Saagar Rao told PTI the party strongly believes there is a certain amount of decorum in the way the national party conducts its affairs and “these two leaders have crossed all the limits”. — PTI

SC shocked by infant's rape

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JAN. 31

The Supreme Court on Wednesday expressed anguish and concern over the brutal rape of an eight-month-old girl child in the capital and directed her to be shifted immediately to Aiims to ensure better treatment.

A three-judge bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and D.Y. Chandrachud in its order on a PIL filed by advocate Alakh Alok Srivastava said “As presently advised, the young child should get all necessary treatment and special care.”

The bench heard arguments by Additional Solicitors General for the Centre who spoke in one voice that the health of the child has to be taken care of. The bench then directed that two competent doctors from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences shall go along with special ambulance to

APEX court said there is a need for defining the term “child” in the context of rape and thereafter provide for more severe punishment for culprits who are involved in these crimes.

the hospital where the girl child is at present undergoing treatment and, thereafter, take a decision whether the child can be shifted to Aiims to have better care and treatment.

The bench said, “Two doctors, who are the experts in the field, must appreciate the concern expressed by this court. They shall submit a report by Thursday. In case they decide that the child should be shifted, they shall shift the child immediately to Aiims under their personal supervision and make suitable arrangements.”

Students told jeans, lipstick invite rape

Raipur, Jan. 31: A biology teacher from the elite government school, Raipur Kendriya Vidyalaya, has defended her blatant sexist comments in the classroom after complaints from a group of outraged parents.

The students recorded the teachers comments in the class, where she is clearly heard accusing women of inviting rapes and molestation through make-up and revealing attire.

Snehlata Shankhwar also blamed the horrific rape of Jyoti Singh in Delhi in December, 2012 on the victim herself.

Jyoti Singh, the teacher said, was out with a man who was not her husband and therefore, the assailants were not wrong given our social rules. The

JYOTI SINGH, the teacher, Snehlata Shankhwar, said, was out with a man who was not her husband, hence her assailants were not wrong.

teacher also went on to say that lipstick and jeans lay in the root of such incidents.

“When boys see girls doing it with one person they assume the girl would do it with others as well,” she said.

The teacher, however, justified her reasons for being misogynistic on Wednesday, saying she was trying to warn Class IX students who were seen outside late at night.

NAVY LAUNCHES INS KARANJ

The Navy on Wednesday launched INS Karanj, the third made-in-India Scorpene class submarine

Naval chief Sunil Lanba's wife Reena Lanba launched the powerful submarine with superior stealth features, constructed by shipbuilder Mazagon Dock Limited in Mumbai.

The submarine will commissioned in a year, Admiral Lanba said.

The Naval chief called for introspection in the ship building business to overcome delay in the construction and commissioning of submarines.

INS Karanj, loaded with advanced acoustic silencing techniques, can attack with precision and is expected to boost India's ageing sea fleet.

FRENCH CONNECTION

A contract with French company Naval Group was signed in 2005 for the supply of six submarines.

In January last year, Khanderi, the second Scorpene class submarine, was launched.

MORE TO COME

The first three submarines of Scorpene class are named Kalvari, Khanderi and Karanj. The remaining three (to be launched in the future) will be called Vela, Vagir and Vagsheer.

Every nine months, a submarine will be launched from the MDL, a Navy spokesperson said.



Copter scam: Verdict reserved

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JAN. 31

The Supreme Court on Wednesday reserved its verdict on petitions seeking a probe by a special investigation team into the alleged irregularities and corruption in the purchase of Augusta Westland helicopters by the Chhattisgarh government.

A bench of Justices A.K. Goel and Uday Lalit reserved verdict at the conclusion of arguments by counsel Prashant Bhushan for Swaraj Abhyas and Sanjay Hegde for other petitioners. Mr Bhushan alleged that the tender itself was issued to purchase a particular brand of Augusta helicopter, incurring an additional cost of ₹65 lakh.

Mr Bhushan argued that neither the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh nor his son Abhishek Singh, who is now an MP have sought an enquiry in this regard. There is a strong possibility that the money paid as commission in this deal as well as in other similar transactions have ultimately reached to the bank account of



“Abhishek Singh”.

Mr Bhushan quoting documents procured through RTI argued as to how a VVIP helicopter was purchased by the Chhattisgarh Government in a dubious manner by floating a sham tender, one individual representing all the three competitive bidders and a payment of \$1.824 million over and above the price of the helicopter.

Mr Bhushan said in July 2008 an offshore bank account of “Abhishek Singh” was opened in British Virgin Islands. As per the data revealed by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, the address for the said account was the same as the one Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh used as his permanent address.

Let Rohingya at border enter India, SC told

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JAN. 31

Making it clear that India cannot be allowed to become the refugee capital of the world, the Centre on Wednesday asked the Supreme Court not to intervene in the executive decision on deportation of Rohingya Muslims to Myanmar.

Counsel Prashant Bhushan filed a fresh application for a direction to permit the remaining Rohingya refugees to cross over the border and enter India as the Border Security Force is thwarting their entry. The court asked the Centre to file its response on this application.

Counsel Bhushan told the court that the remaining 20 per cent of the Rohingya refugees too should be allowed to enter India. He complained that Border Security Force was preventing them from crossing over the border

COUNSEL Prashant Bhushan said Border Security Force was preventing Rohingyas from crossing over the border by sprinkling the chilli powder.

by sprinkling the chilli powder.

Senior counsel Gopal Subramaniam appearing for the NHRC told the court that he was in agreement with what ASG was saying. But he said that the NHRC was only concerned with the Rohingyas present in the country and had no instructions regarding others.

Mr Bhushan pointed out that Rohingya refugees in camps in India live in abject poverty and squalor. “The conditions are inhuman. There is no access to either schools or hospitals,” he said.

VALLEY UNREST

J&K civilian injured in firing dies triggering fresh protests

Army: Opened fire in self-defence

DC CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR, JAN. 31

The Army on Wednesday filed a counter-FIR against unknown stone-pelters who it said forced its men to open fire resulting in the death of three youth and injuries to some others on January 27.

The Army had termed it as a pre-mature act on part of the police and the BJP had, in the state Assembly, been critical of naming the Army Major in the FIR.

Javed Ahmed Bhat, 20, and Suhail Javed Lone, 24,

were killed and few other civilians injured when the Army opened fire on a stone-pelting mob in Ganowpora village on last Saturday.

Rayees Ahmed Gania, 19, who was critically injured in the shooting died in a Srinagar hospital early Wednesday, triggering fresh protests in Shopian and neighbouring Pulwama district.

The firing incident evoked anger throughout the Kashmir Valley where a shutdown was observed on Sunday to mourn and protest the killings.

7K MORE JAWANS AT BORDER

THE BORDER Security Force which guards the border with Pakistan, will raise six new battalions comprising around 7,000 personnel.

THE MHA sanctioned an amount of ₹2,090.94 crore to the force for this. The new battalions will also be deployed along Indo-Bangladesh border.

Shopian and Pulwama remained shut on the seventh consecutive day on Wednesday.

The Army claimed that its men had opened fire

“in self-defence” and only after a 250-strong mob tried to lynch a Junior Commissioned Officer and snatch his service weapon. It also said that seven sol-

diers were injured and 11 vehicles damages in the mob attack. The state government has ordered a magisterial inquiry into the firing incident.

The Army had said that a few vehicles got separated and were trapped by protesters. It also said that the stone-pelting was “unprovoked and intense”, causing extensive damage to four Army vehicles and a JCO accompanying the convoy was hit on the head and fell unconscious. The mob tried to lynch him and snatch his weapon, it said.

WOMAN THROWS EGGS AT NAVEEN AT MEETING

DC CORRESPONDENT
BHUBANESWAR, JAN. 31

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday narrowly missed being hit by eggs thrown at him by a BJP activist's wife while he was inaugurating a festival here on Wednesday afternoon.

The eggs flew past him and hit some people standing there before falling beside the podium.

The incident occurred while Naveen was inaugurating the 7th Talsari Beach Mahotsav in Bhograi block of the

district. Sources said the woman, identified as the wife of BJP activist Dillip Kamila, threw two eggs.

The woman came to the event with the eggs, enraged about her husband being picked up by police on Wednesday morning anticipating he might create law and order problems.

The woman was detained and is being interrogated.

A group of Youth Congress members in February, 2015, had broken through Naveen's security cordon and threw eggs at his car.

We may encounter many defeats
but we must not be defeated

Yesterday is not ours to recover, but
tomorrow is ours to win or lose

DECCAN Chronicle

1 FEBRUARY 2018

Kashmir desperately needs to cool down

In a Shopian village in specially-disturbed southern Kashmir, the Army fired back on Saturday when a small unit of soldiers driving by was attacked by a stone-pelting mob. Two young men were killed. The local police named the major in charge of the unit in the FIR it registered, although the Army denies the officer was present. A magisterial inquiry has been ordered.

When social and political conditions are as disturbed as they are in Kashmir for the past two years, the outcome of such an inquiry is likely to be contested. However, going by news reports, neither side disputes that the Army fired after the stone-pelting, in which some soldiers were badly injured, commenced.

This alone is sufficient to justify the Army's action, specially when the AFSPA is in force. It may have been justifiable even in the absence of the special powers, though evidence would then be needed that the force did not behave in a trigger-happy manner.

It should also be considered that the Army has punished its soldiers as well as officers in several cases in Kashmir of late, though not in all, in spite of AFSPA. This signals that the security forces have tended to be responsible on the whole — even when civilians have stood in their way to shield terrorists during anti-terrorist operations. In the latter half of 2016, when pellet injuries caused serious injuries to civilians, blinding dozens, when the Army confronted violent stone-pelting mobs stage-managed by *agents provocateur*, a large number of soldiers sustained serious injuries.

The day after the Shopian firing, the extremists, separatists and Pakistan-backed agents, operating these days under the rubric of "Joint Resistance Leadership", gave a call to shut down the Valley. This enjoyed considerable success. This suggests that the mood of political confrontation remains strong from the side of the separatists, fuelled by Pakistani machinations.

The bandh call was the first one of the new year, and may be seen as a barometer for the rest of the year. It is quite clear that the security situation is likely to remain fragile. This is only to be expected when the Centre has taken no credible step over the last four years to revive a congenial political atmosphere in spite of repeated calls to do so even by the Army.

In the state Assembly, chief minister Mehbooba Mufti strongly defended the action of the police to name the Army major in charge of the unit that fired on the stone-throwers, eliciting a sharp response from her coalition partner, the BJP. She has courted hostility from the populace by aligning with the BJP and may see in her present move a chance to politically rehabilitate herself. What Kashmir desperately needs, however, at this point is political cooling.

A 'rebellion' to widen debate?

Former finance minister Yashwant Sinha's rebellion against the top BJP leadership, out in the open for some time now, has coalesced into a movement he calls the "Rashtra Manch". With Shatrughan Sinha for company, the bureaucrat-turned-politician has launched a platform that he believes will allow the airing of diverse views on vital national issues. Projecting themselves as "fearless" rebels, the stalwarts hope to present an apolitical forum to discuss democracy, farmers' issues, the economy, etc. But it's debatable if the rebellion would mean much in a political sense as both leaders have little popular support, particularly in an electoral sense. Their relevance may lie more in their stressing the need for a public debate on what's happening around the country. Yashwant Sinha found encouragement from many Opposition figures and his Manch may serve as a platform against the BJP.

The larger issue Yashwant was fighting for before throwing in his lot with forces aligned against the ruling party was about inner-party democracy. Truth to tell, those freedoms have been anathema to both the Congress and the BJP. The scene is similar in many other parties that have grown on foundations laid around the charisma of families or individuals. Over time, all parties support only the pliant, fawning kind of leaders even in the second rung. While there may be some opportunity to air views in party forums, the significance of an apolitical forum outside a party structure is difficult to gauge, specially as BJP MP Shatrughan seems to think it can coexist with the BJP. What Yashwant has to say on what is taking place today may, however, be more important than the forum he has launched.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

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Gokul
Gopalakrishnan

Budget today: How far will FM turn populist?

Sindhu
Bhattacharya

The Indian economy appears to have absorbed the twin shocks of demonetisation and the hasty implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and is on course for healthy growth in the medium term. Essentially, this is what the Economic Survey 2017-18 says while listing quite a few parameters to show how the economy has been healing. The number of indirect taxpayers is up by 50 per cent, with 18 lakh new income-tax filers coming forward this year. Besides, there has been a large increase in voluntary registrations by small enterprises and an 18 per cent rise in direct tax collections. Therefore, despite the large-scale disruption to businesses and the economy in general, GST has led to greater formalisation and a wider tax net. This is surely good news.

Besides, the reversal in decline of exports and revival of manufacturing has meant that gross domestic product (GDP) estimates have improved. The Survey pegs current fiscal GDP growth at 6.75 per cent, ahead of the 6.5 per cent which the Central Statistical Office had estimated earlier. And next fiscal's GDP growth has been set at 7-7.5 per cent, when India may once again become the fastest growing economy on the planet. Chief economic adviser Arvind Subramanian has not been taken in by incessant questioning about which of these two numbers the growth is likely to be closer to, and wisely so. There are too many imponderables as of now, and there's not much point in sticking out one's neck to be

more precise.

But alongside this good news, the Survey also states some harsh truths — that global crude oil prices are rising, there are impending challenges to agriculture due to rapid climate change and falling farm incomes, India is simply not harnessing its women power enough and stock markets are overheated. It also speaks of the twin balance sheet problem — weak banks and over-leveraged corporates — and warns of fiscal slippage due to lower-than-expected revenues. And while there seem to be more jobs in the formal sector than previously thought, job creation obviously still remains a big challenge for the government.

So will the Union Budget bring relief for the *aam aadmi*, businessman as well as the farmer on Thursday? The Budget, the last full-fledged one for the Narendra Modi government, will have to balance populism, growth and fiscal prudence. Since the finance minister will be pulled in multiple directions, there is no reading his mind on what will finally emerge on Budget day. Obviously, raising revenues will be a major priority.

Job creation ought to be one of the Budget's top priorities. Though the government has taken some steps, a squeeze in the informal sector due to demonetisation hurt these efforts. The Survey notes jobs will remain a pressing medium-term challenge and job creation needs private investment and export growth. Around 1.2 crore people enter the labour market every year, but there simply aren't enough jobs for all.

A return of the long-

term capital gains tax is also possible this Budget. This may pause the sustained bull run seen recently, but the pause is likely to be temporary and the tax could anyway come with riders such as applicability on only future transactions and a longer timeframe for holding scrips. This levy will not just raise revenues but also help the government somewhat deflect criticism that it bats only for the rich. A recent Oxfam report said the richest one per cent of Indians account for 73 per cent of the total gain in national wealth last year. Taxing some of that wealth will surely be acceptable. Besides, with the Survey warning against the rich parking their funds away from real estate and gold, into the stock markets, this space must be closely watched. The proposal for lowering corporation tax to 25 per cent is also up for consideration.

Then, the Survey puts farm distress in perspective, saying that farmers' incomes will likely be affected by 20-25 per cent due to climate change in the medium term as Indian farmers rely heavily on the monsoons. So where does this leave Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of doubling farmers' income by 2022? The Survey notes that agriculture GDP and farm revenues have stagnated in the last four years despite increasing production due to "a problem of plenty", where farm revenues declined for several crops despite increasing production and market prices fell below the Minimum

Job creation ought to be one of the Budget's top priorities. Though the government has taken some steps, a squeeze in the informal sector due to demonetisation hurt these efforts.

Support Price (MSP).

Farmers want better MSPs for all crops and more crops under MSP. They also want more measures for getting out of the debt trap — the state-specific loan waivers don't seem to be working well. All these problems will surely figure in the Budget, which is widely expected to offer multiple sops to farmers.

Also, incentives on gender matters in the Budget appear likely. Not only is focus on the girl child a pet theme of the Centre, this will also make eminent economic sense. The Survey says fewer Indian women are working: 36 per cent or one in three a decade back but just 24 per cent or almost one in four now. Fewer working women means lower economic growth. The Survey says there are 63 million "missing women" and 21 million unwanted girls, underlining a grave development challenge that policies must address. Missing women, non-working women, women who continue giving birth in hopes of a son — how does all this affect the economy? The Survey says: "In developing countries, working women also invest more in the schooling of their children..." Recently at Davos, IMF chief Christine Lagarde, quoting IMF research, said that women's participation in the workforce to the level of men can boost the Indian economy by 27 per cent." It thus won't be unreasonable to expect a slew of gender-based incentives in the Budget, like some for employers to hire more women and others for women employees.

There is little doubt that this Budget day, the finance minister will take a pause on fiscal consolidation. What remains to be seen is how much slippage he will allow, and whether the Budget bows to populism over prudence.

The writer is a senior journalist based in New Delhi focusing on business and the economy

LETTERS

CAUVERY WATER

Hats off to Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami for his plan to meet his Karnataka counterpart Siddaramaiah to request him to release Cauvery water to save the standing samba crops in the delta districts. It would be nice if the Tamil Nadu Congress president could talk to their Chief Minister of Karnataka to be courteous to our CM and release the required water to the Tamil Nadu farmers. Since successive Karnataka CMs have even overlooked the Supreme Court directives and state that they would not release even a single drop of water, let us wait and see what is in store for the farmers of our delta districts. If the Karnataka CM continues to be adamant, then there is no other alternative for the apex court than to take him to task.

Capt. N. Viswanathan,
Coimbatore

TIME IS MONEY

Jayant V. Narlikar in his article *Time is money: Why must we waste it?* (Jan. 31) has rightly pointed out how much time is wasted due to delays in functions. I am reminded of the remark of the legendary founder principal of YMCA College of Physical Education, H.C.Buck "When I say 8, I mean 8. If you come at 7.59, you are wasting your time. If you come at 8.01, you are wasting my time." How long we, as a nation, are going to learn punctuality. One may afford to waste his or her time, but has no right to waste another's time. Narlikar has taken the right decision to avoid such functions.

S.S. Rajagopalan, Chennai

STUDENTS ON RAMPAGE

A very disturbing and dangerous trend is emerging in the state where the youth resort to brandishing knives and sickles in public places. On an earlier occasion, they even chose to upload a video clipping of their condemnable act in social media. Now we have the clash between groups of students, your report Students run amok with sickles in suburban railway station, posing a security threat to the general public as well. Such undisciplined behaviour has to be checked with a firm hand and the concerned offenders subjected to punishment to prevent recurrence of such incidents in the interests of one and all.

M.S. Vaidyanathan,
Chennai

Zahid
Hussain

How the Afghan war has turned bloodier...

The latest wave of terror attacks in Kabul that has claimed dozens of civilian lives marks the bloodiest phase of the so far 16-year war with the insurgents getting more audacious. The escalation in fighting raises questions about America's new Afghan strategy. Not that the Afghan capital has not witnessed such high-profile terrorist attacks before, but the ferocity and the frequency of assaults is alarming.

Three attacks in a week in high-security zones indicate the increasing capacity and the organisation of the insurgents despite massive escalation in the US air strikes. While the Afghan Taliban claimed responsibility for two of the first two attacks, the militant Islamic State group reportedly carried out the third one. The insurgents have taken the war into the nation's capital. The rising toll of civilian casualties is disturbing.

It signals a shift in insurgent strategy — from gaining territorial control to focusing more on the capital to test the mettle of the Afghan security forces. It seems that the Afghan Taliban and ISIS are competing when it comes to carnage in

the besieged capital and other towns and cities in Afghanistan.

The Afghan National Army has improved its performance greatly over time, but it is still not capable of dealing with such organised terrorist attacks on its own.

While the Taliban control vast swathes of territory, the increasing presence of ISIS in Afghanistan is extremely worrisome. The terrorist group that is fighting both Kabul and the Taliban has been responsible for several high-profile attacks in the capital over the last few months. The terrorist group has made some inroads in eastern and northern Afghanistan. The rise of IS has brought greater devastation and caused a spike in the number of civilian casualties.

The latest surge in militant attacks has come as the relentless US air strikes have forced the Taliban to retreat from some of their strongholds in western Afghanistan. But the US military offensive has failed to contain the insurgency that has now spread to vast areas.

Predictably, the violence has evoked a strong reaction from Washington. There are clear indications that the Trump administration will

intensify military action in Afghanistan. Addressing the UN Security Council members in the aftermath of the Kabul attacks, President Trump vowed to take the battle to the finish.

Notwithstanding Mr Trump's tough tenor, such promises have also been made by previous US administrations in the past decade.

Mr Trump has ruled out negotiations with the Taliban, at least for now. So the US administration is still pursuing an elusive military victory that it has failed to achieve in the past 16 years with more than 150,000 troops on the ground.

Not surprisingly, the surge in militant violence inside Afghanistan has increased pressure on Islamabad. Both Kabul and Washington have once again accused Pakistan of providing safe havens to militants. They have also blamed Pakistani security agencies for facilitating those responsible for the carnage. More alarming is the growing Afghan-Indian nexus demanding tougher US action against Pakistan.

There are clear indications that the Trump administration is getting ready to tighten the screws on Pakistan further and intensify air

strikes on alleged Taliban sanctuaries inside this country's tribal region. The recent attack on reportedly an Afghan refugee camp in Kurram Agency that has allegedly been used as a sanctuary for the Haqqani network is ominous. There is also a strong possibility of the US slapping economic and military sanctions on Pakistan and using its influence to persuade multilateral financial institutions to squeeze assistance.

Washington has already suspended military assistance to Pakistan. There could also be a move to get the country declared as a terrorist haven. Surely such radical moves cannot succeed. Still, they would put greater diplomatic pressure on Islamabad to crack down on suspected militant sanctuaries and take action against the Taliban leadership allegedly operating from Pakistan.

It certainly presents a very serious challenge to the Pakistani leadership. That raises questions about Pakistan's options and how its political and military leadership can deal with this serious situation. The prevailing political instability and absence of a chain of

command has complicated our predicament.

It may be true that Pakistan is being used as a scapegoat for America's failure to wind up the war. Yet the allegations of some Afghan insurgent groups taking sanctuary in Pakistan's border areas cannot be refuted. The fact that so many proscribed militant groups are operating with such impunity has weakened Pakistan's case and made it extremely vulnerable to growing international pressure. Pakistan cannot hide behind a sense of victimhood.

It is not just about US pressure. It is imperative for Pakistan to clean up its home in its own national security interest. The surge in militant violence and growing instability in Afghanistan threaten its security too. Indeed, America's continuing reliance on the military solution and an ineffective, fragmented administration in Kabul has been the major cause of the deepening Afghan crisis. Yet it is in Pakistan's own interest that it continue to cooperate with Afghanistan and the international community to contain violence in the strife-torn country.

By arrangement with Dawn

A man working in a
ship's engine room

A fit of rage or
hysterics

DECCAN CHRONICLE

THURSDAY | 1 FEBRUARY 2018 | CHENNAI

Oped

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DC DEBATE A hasty push for simultaneous Lok Sabha, Assembly polls will be anti-democratic

A sensible idea, or partisan...



Move aimed
at helping
BJP win polls

Pankaj
Sharma

Mr Modi's proposal is motivated more by political considerations than the reasons he wants us to believe. It is no secret that when simultaneous elections are held, voters tend to vote for the same party.

The writer is an
office-bearer of the
Congress Party



It will save
money, time
and energy

Virender
Sachdeva

If elections are held simultaneously, the odds of gaining or losing prevails just once. The rest of their term, a politician can work for the job he/she been elected to.

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pitched for holding simultaneous elections to Parliament and the state Assemblies, President Ram Nath Kovind is now calling for it too. Mr Modi has been preparing a plan for the merger of elections for a long time and the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS)-backed think tanks have been working overtime to create an atmosphere so that the PM gets support on this.

Mr Modi calls it "electoral cycle reforms" which he argues will limit the amount of time and money spent in election-eering. He wants politicians to have more time for people-oriented programme rather than wasting most of their time on elections. But the real intention behind it is to consolidate the position of the BJP across the nation.

At an all-party meet two years back, Mr Modi spoke about merging forthcoming elections. The proposal was then raised again at a meeting of the BJP's national executive. This was a plan in motion even before the last general election. The BJP's manifesto for the 2014 election had underlined: "Evolve method of holding Assembly and Lok Sabha Elections simultaneously."

Then, in December 2015 the Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law, and Justice tabled a report in Parliament on the "Feasibility of Holding Simultaneous Elections to

the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies". The report said, "This is important for India if it is to compete with other nations in developmental agenda on real time basis as a robust, democratic country."

Mr Modi's proposal is motivated more by political considerations than the reasons he wants us to believe. It is no secret that when simultaneous elections are held, voters tend to vote for the same party. An analysis of Election Commission data from 1999 onward shows that there is a 77 per cent chance that the Indian voter would vote for the same party at the state and Centre if elections were held simultaneously.

Constitutional provisions are very clear on the matter. Article 83(2) provides for a term of five years for the Lok Sabha, from the date of its first sitting, unless dissolved earlier. Similar provisions under Article 172 (1) provide for a five-year tenure for state Legislative Assemblies from the date of its first sitting. The mandatory term has to be completed first. It is the prerogative of the Assembly to decide when to call an election. The President has the

power to extend the period of Assemblies by up to one year to bring about uniformity in holding the elections at the same time. It'll be interesting to see that how far our new President would like to stretch his powers to fulfill the desire of a particular political party as it is bound to raise many questions.

Moreover, to conduct elections across the country on the same day, about 4,000 companies of paramilitary forces will be required. The country is able to make available only around 1,000 at the moment. Purchasing Electronic Voting Machines and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail machines would cost around ₹10,000 crores if elections are to be held together. State and national elections are often fought on different sets of issues. In simultaneous polls, voters may end up privileging one set of issues over the other. National issues could be ignored or local issues could be swept away by a national "wave". The proposal is entirely against the basic principles of a federal system.

The great Chinese (fire)wall: What India needs to do now



Abhijit Bhattacharya

At the cost of being misunderstood by some fellow countrymen who may prefer to pursue a soft line on China, seeking unrestricted imports and investments from that country, preferring to facilitate Beijing's entities' unchecked entry and exit across the length and breadth of India, I shall question their "love for China and all things Chinese". What is being done today is exactly what a tottering Shah Alam II did in the last days of the Mughal durbar by granting British the diwani of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa (now Odisha), upgrading the status of the foreign traders to virtual rulers in almost one stroke.

How does one react to the *Financial Times* report "Beijing's censors make it tougher for global groups to scale Great Firewall" (Jan. 17, 2018)? Beijing is reportedly "plugging the last holes" in its "great firewall" Internet censorship, thereby severely disrupting the ability of global multinationals to efficiently operate in, and from, China.

Does it appear surprising or unexpected? That depends on who are talking to. Undoubtedly, it's all about one's self-interest at an individual level, which turns institutional at the national level. Multinationals and other big corporations are known for

their strategic interest in profit, markets, consolidation and expansion, but seen from the point of view of an Westphalian sovereign state like China, can these corporations overlook a country's "legitimate national interest" which could be linked to not only economics and profits, but also to an overreaching arch of internal polity, security, integrity, sovereignty, macro-economics, indigenous industry protection, employment and social stability.

From that viewpoint, China may have something drastically different to state. Yes, prima facie, China does reserve the sovereign right to determine what it considers to be in its national interest. There's nothing wrong with that, except by the same logic, can one support China for doing the exact opposite?

Understandably, then the complaint list given by several international companies operating from Beijing raises "issues". Chinese telecom providers regularly block crucial software used by foreign companies in China. Although MNCs use Virtual Private Network (VPN) software to avoid censorship and save their sensitive commercial communications from being hacked, Chinese regulators are pressuring them to buy expensive state-approved VPNs. This will be disadvantageous to

them as it could expose their communications to Beijing.

The partner of a prominent Western legal firm in Beijing, Wilmer Hale, says: "China's intention is to control the flow of information entirely, making people use only government-approved VPNs by making it difficult, if not impossible, to use alternatives." You may recall how state-engineered disruptions forced Google to move out of China. According to Consultancy Control Risks, Shanghai: "The Xi administration has prioritised control over all information flows within China and in and out of its borders." But then, what China is doing is done by the West too.

Yet today the crux of the matter is: "in and out of its (China's) border". India stands just across the "border", a border to be recognised only if "demarcated, delineated and decided" by China! Hence, all information emanating from India too must be controlled, captured and censored because India is an "irritant foreign country". So China takes full advantage of "divided" Indians, both inside and outside the establishment. There was a strong "China lobby" in the 1960s too — which came into existence after the 1962 Chinese invasion of India. How did those who were cursing the Chinese in 1962 for its unprovoked invasion become its ardent fans and staunch supporters within five years (like Naxalites in 1967), resorting to rabid anti-national slogans like "China's Chairman (Mao Zedong) is our chairman"?

One still remembers those turbulent college days in Kolkata (then Calcutta), being bashed up by fellow countrymen for opposing them and

Yes, prima facie, China does reserve the sovereign right to determine what it considers to be in its national interest. There's nothing wrong with that, except by the same logic, can one support China for doing the exact opposite?

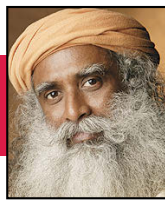
refusing to raise pro-Mao and rabid anti-India slogans. Indeed, China entered early in India's psyche. In 1950s, it entered Jawaharlal Nehru's mind. In the 1960s, it entered the Bengali psyche as Hindu Bengalis were branded as "regressive" and targeted all over for being "violent Naxalites" and pro-Communist Chinese. However, the same Indians in the 21st century are falling head over heels for cheap Chinese goods and the charm offensive launched by Beijing. They are now regarded "progressive". China slapped India through bullets in 1962, but today it is penetrating into India's sensitive economic sphere.

British traders in 18th century Delhi convinced the Mughal Emperor of Hindustan to grant them the opportunity to do business unencumbered by all local laws, that ultimately bled India white. Not only was indigenous industry ruined but from being a producer, India became a net consumer.

The question here is: what does China do, or is doing, with its own companies and industrial planning? Says former US treasury secretary Henry M. Paulson Jr, who knows China well: "In 2006, the government of China revealed a list of sec-

tors state-owned enterprises must dominate, including defence, electricity, oil, petrochemicals, telecommunications, coal, aviation and shipping." Beijing also wanted to maintain a strong presence in "pillar industries" like equipment manufacturing, automobiles, electronics, construction, steel, non-ferrous metals, chemicals, surveying and scientific research. Will any Indian company be able to get into China the way Chinese companies are penetrating into our sensitive sectors? Do we realise that if China can do what it wants to do to foreign companies in Beijing, by disrupting their communications system, what awaits India in its own backyard where telecommunications systems are virtually going into Chinese hand? It's not just surprising, but in fact shocking, how, ever since 1947, Indians have been mesmerised, first by Mao and Marx, and now by money, with the possibility of handing over its critical, sensitive sectors to the Chinese, who are not known for their ethics in any terrain. Computers, servers, towers, transmission, distribution and consumption — all of it will soon be known to the Chinese, if it is not already! Thus, with firm control of "internal India", one shudders to think what awaits the fate of "external India", particularly the soldiers and sentries at border? Do they say "Good morning, Sir, how are you?" to the Chinese? Or do they keep the powder dry for action, should the need arise?

The writer is an alumnus of the National Defence College. The views expressed are personal.



Sadhguru

The Power of Inclusion

Whatever I face, any kind of situation, any kind of people, the moment I sit, I just look at them and I don't even have to think. I just see them as a part of myself and speak to them as I would speak to myself. When you speak to yourself, you can say whatever is needed. There is no difficulty in it; there is no greatness about it. You just do what needs to be done.

Once there is a sense of inclusion, awareness and consciousness comes naturally. Awareness is life. Life is awareness. There is no other way to be. So what is needed is consciousness. Consciousness is not individual, consciousness is always all-inclusive. If you are conscious, everything is included. You neither need confidence nor diffidence. You just function to the fullest of your intellectual capability without any hesitation.

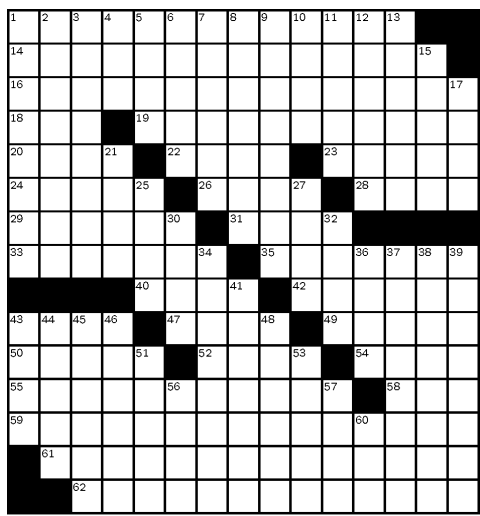
It is only because of exclusion that awareness has to be practiced. People are becoming such exclusive characters in the world. Most of your exclusiveness, you have created unconsciously. A part of it, you have created consciously because you thought that this is the way to get attention from the world, by trying to be special. Especially in Western cultures, right from childhood, they are training you to be special. Trying to be special is the worst of diseases because once you get this disease, there is no salvation for you. In the old brochures, we used

to say 'Isha Yoga – Ordinary to Extraordinary.' People thought if they come to the program, they would become very special. After they arrived, I would tell them, "No, you will become more ordinary than others. Extraordinary!" When there is no effort to make yourself special, when you are simply ordinary, you will stand out as extra-ordinary. All-inclusiveness is extra-ordinary. It is just a way of life. When I say inclusion, it is not my philosophy, it is not something that I have made up — this is the way existence is. It is only in inclusiveness that existence is functioning.

When we talk about inclusiveness, we are not teaching you a new philosophy. We are talking about falling back into the way life is, just ordinary as it is. It is ordinary but it is magnificent.

The writer is an internationally renowned spiritual leader, is a visionary, humanitarian, author, poet and speaker. He can be contacted at www.ishafoundation.org

THE NYT CROSSWORD



PUZZLE BY MARK DIEHL

ACROSS

- Challenge with gusto
- "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" composer
- Classic See 'N Say toy figures
- Philadelphia's Allegheny or Aramingo: Abbr.
- Automatic bill payment
- Specs spec
- Notes in old Napoli
- Conductor with over 30 Grammys
- Business sign abbr.
- One sector of the Dow Jones index
- Forward-looking sort
- Big name in chocolates
- Two and two?
- First bishop of Paris
- Coveted position
- Parent company of StubHub

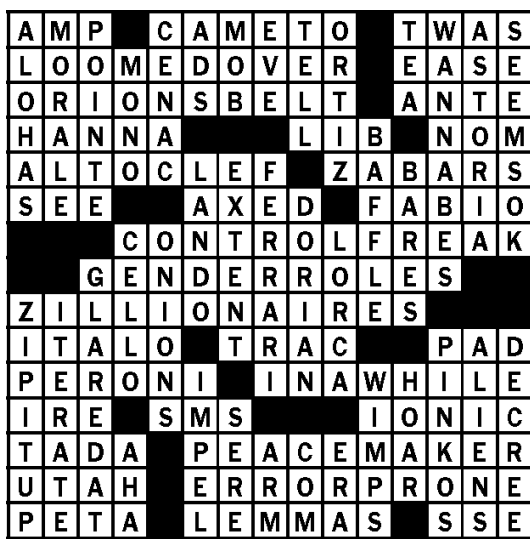
- Pupil border
- Hammett's "The ___ Curse"
- Opening at work
- "Heavens to Murgatroyd!"
- Ancient carvers of giant stone heads
- First vice-president not to become president
- Kick in
- Lush
- Unit of thickness
- "Quit rushing me!"
- Who said "I like my men like I like my coffee. I don't drink coffee"
- Masthead section

DOWN

- Ones involved in forensics
- Stopping in
- Not let
- Plane compartment
- Sam ___, author of the clas-

- "Cyclopedia of 5,000 Puzzles"
- Something read with a scroll?
- Dickens title character
- Alphabetical, e.g.
- Final toast of a meal
- Exertion
- Vinegar and lime juice
- Valentine senders
- Give a chance
- Several cuts above
- Hullabaloo
- Stun with a gun
- Forum fine?
- Greeting abroad
- Sharpened points of quill pens
- "I'm down"
- Three-time World Series champ with the A's

- Millions
- "Triptych Bleu I, II, III" artist
- Foggy
- Utterly unfounded
- How hair dye may make you look
- Bubblehead
- Simple dress design
- Urges on
- Toll House cookie dough maker
- Some disaster relief work
- Real last name of Mama Cass Elliot
- Made the grade
- What doesn't go to great lengths?
- "Please, Mommy ... Please, Daddy?"
- Haiphong holiday





Brazil former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva retains a strong lead ahead of presidential poll, despite conviction for graft

I'm serving my country and my party. I'm not a quitter and there's a long-term job to be done

—Theresa May
British Prime Minister

IN BRIEF

6 Thais jailed for insult to royals

Bangkok: Five Thai teens and a 20-year-old were sentenced to between nearly 3.5 and 11.5 years in prison for setting fire to royal portraits, their lawyers said. Thailand has one of the harshest royal defamation laws in the world and aggressively polices any perceived slight to its ultra-rich royal family.

Gouri, Israel's poet-warrior, dead

Jerusalem: Haim Gouri, 94, the Israeli poet who fought with an elite combat unit, covered the trial of Adolf Eichmann and became a national icon, has died. Gouri published more than 20 books, with his poetry including reflections on his time as part of the elite Palmach combat unit predating Israel's founding.

Vatican rebukes HK cardinal

Beijing: The Vatican has chastised Hong Kong Cardinal Joseph Zen who accused it of "selling out" to Beijing for promoting bishops endorsed by the government. Beijing and the Vatican have improved relations China's Catholic population has grown but they remain at odds over which side has the authority to ordain bishops.

Liberia's Weah slashes own pay

Monrovia: Liberia's President George Weah, a former footballer, vowed to slash his salary by a quarter and vowed to change racist Constitution. He will divert some of his wages to a development fund and seek to allow foreign ownership of property. During a nationwide address, he warned of tough times ahead.

PRESIDENCY NOT LIKE BIZ

■ One year after, Trump says Prez needs to add heart and soul

Washington, Jan. 31: A year after he was sworn in as the 45th President of the United States, a billionaire real estate mogul-turned-politician Donald Trump said he has realised that presidency is not running a business and it needs governance with heart.

The immigration issue is a case in point, Trump told a group of news channel anchors during a luncheon at the White House, hours ahead of his maiden State of the Union Address.

"I'm telling you, the immigration is so easy to solve if it was purely a business matter, but it's not. And I think that's something that I've learned, maybe more than anything else," Trump said in response to a question.

"You govern with all of the instincts of a businessperson, but you have to add much more heart and soul into your decisions than you would ever have even thought of before," he said.

Trump said he has learned a lot during the first year of his presidency. "I think really learned a lot. You know, governing — when you're a businessperson, you don't have to worry about your heart, the heart. You really do what's best for you, for almost pure-

LYOU MAKE your money. You competing against people. In many cases, you don't like them, you want to beat, and all that stuff.

DONALD TRUMP
US President

ly monetary reasons," he said. "You make your money. You competing against people. In many cases, you don't like them, you want to beat, and all that stuff. And I built a great company — far better than anybody at this table says. I mean, I have some of the greatest assets in the world," he said reflecting on his days as a successful businessman.

Trump noted that in dealing with some of the much talked about issues such as immigration, "a lot of compassion and heart" is involved and "it is far beyond money". "If I was doing this purely from an economic standpoint, I would sit down and tell you in one second what I'd be doing, okay? It's so simple. But I'm not. I'm doing it because millions are affected," he said.

He said that it is great to have a successful business background but decisions differ in governance. "I put myself in their position. Millions and millions of people are affected. So it's much different in that way than I thought it would be."

—Agencies

TRUMP TO RELEASE MEMO ON PROBE INTO FBI

Trump told a lawmaker he plans to release a secret Republican memo alleging that a politically motivated department of justice and the FBI flagrantly abused regulations to spy on his campaign. The issue of the memo has gripped Washington just as the Russia meddling probe edges closer to the White House. Republicans are keen to see the four-page memo — written by Republican lawmaker Devin Nunes, the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee and a close defender of Trump — released, and his committee voted to do so.

DREAMERS IN FRONT SEAT DURING TRUMP SPEECH

Dozens of immigrants in legal limbo — including a young teacher named America — had front row seats for the State of the Union address, getting a close-up look at US history despite their own precarious status. The speech, which touched on the divisive issue of immigration, came as some 7 lakh immigrants brought to the US illegally as children, the so-called "Dreamers," risk losing their protected status. "Make sure the President is seeing the faces of young people who are contributing to our community every day," said Congresswoman Michelle Lujan Grisham.

—AFP



US First Lady Melania Trump (left) applauds as Police Officer Ryan Holets (centre) his wife, Rebecca, and adopted daughter, Hope, are recognised during the State of the Union address. Melania made a very visible return to the public stage, her first official appearance since accusations of infidelity surfaced about the President.

Sunayana watches address

Washington, Jan. 31: Sunayana Dumala, wife of Indian engineer Srinivas Kuchibhotla who was shot dead in a hate crime shooting in the US last year, attended President Donald Trump's first State of the Union Address.

Sunayana, 32, was invited as a guest by Congressman Kevin Yoder to attend the event. Kuchibhotla was shot dead while his colleague,



Sunayana Dumala

also an Indian, sustained bullet injuries after an American navy veteran

opened fire in a crowded suburban bar in Olathe city in February last year. The shooter, thought they were from West Asia, and was heard telling them to "get out of my country" at the time of the shooting.

Earlier, Sunayana met a number of Congressional leaders including House Speaker Paul Ryan. The Speaker said he knew Sunayana's story and remembered her.

TECHIES FROM INDIA PROTEST IN LONDON

London, Jan. 31 Indian professionals along with highly-skilled migrants have protested opposite Downing Street against the UK government's "unfair and inhumane" visa policies.

The Highly Skilled Migrants group claims to represent over 600 doctors, engineers, IT professionals, teachers and their families in Britain and has raised over £25,000 to challenge the UK Home Office in the courts where necessary. "We are a group of highly skilled migrants who have been suffering because of injustice done by the Home Office.

BRITAIN AGREES TO FUND SIKH SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL

London, Jan. 31 The UK government has agreed to support and fund a national memorial to honour the sacrifices and contribution of Sikh soldiers who fought for Britain and its allies during the two World Wars.

More than 83,000 turbaned Sikh soldiers gave their lives and more than 100,000 were injured during the wars. "We are indebted to all those servicemen who volunteered to serve and fought to defend the freedoms we enjoy today," said UK communities secretary Sajid Javid as he announced government backing for the new memorial in London.

"A Sikh war memorial in our nation's capital will honour their sacrifice and ensure that this part of our shared history is never forgotten. So, I'm delighted to get behind this campaign and ensure its success," he said.

The campaign for a new Sikh war memorial was led by Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi, Britain's first turbaned Sikh MP, who now has the support of the UK's ministry of housing.

—PTI

9-FT TAPEWORM PULLED OUT OF MAN'S RECTUM

Singapore, Jan. 31: Doctors were stunned to find a nine-foot long tapeworm growing in a man's body after years of eating raw sashimi.

The patient was appalled when the worm was pulled out through the rectum, according to a report in The Daily Mail.

Sushi is one dish which has grown in popularity across the globe over the years as it is served as an exotic delicacy. But while it may be a delight for taste buds, sometimes it may have shocking effects.

Such infections are caused by the larvae of *diphyllobothrium* which is found in freshwater fish. Although things have improved following better sanitation, more cases are being reported from more developed countries, *Daily Mail* said.

—Agencies

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT - BUILDING ORGANIZATION
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PWD., BUILDINGS (CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE) CIRCLE, TRICHY-1.
PRE QUALIFICATION APPLICATION AND PRICE TENDER FORM OF CONTRACT: LUMP SUM (TWO COVER SYSTEM)
Tender Notice No. 27/2017-2018 / SE / B (C&M) dated: 30.01.2018
For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu, Sealed Tenders will be received from the Registered Contractors of Public Works Department, under class I for the works noted below by the Superintending Engineer, PWD, Buildings (C&M) Circle, Trichy - 1 upto 3.00PM on the following dates noted. The tenders received will be opened at 3.30 PM on the same day in the presence of the tenders or their authorized representatives choose to be present at that time, if the tender opening day is a holiday, the tender will be opened to the next working day.

No.	Name of Work	Approximate Value of Work (Rs. in lakhs)	Amount of B.B.M. (Rs.)	Period of Completion	Contract Class
1	Construction of 20 Class Room Building, 1 Science Lab, 2 Nos. Girls Toilet and Drinking water facilities in Government Girls Higher Secondary School at Eastman street in Thiruvor District (under NABARD Scheme)	272.00	1,46,000/-	12 Months	Class I
2	Construction of Twin Type Group Houses (B Block) for Project affected persons SF No.4316 of Korkkai village at Thiruvor District (under NABARD Scheme)	257.00	1,38,500/-	11 Months	Class I
3	Construction of 14 Class room, 1 Science Lab, 2 Nos Boys Toilet, 1 No Girls Toilet and compound wall in Boys GHSS at Thiruvor District (under NABARD Scheme)	220.00	1,20,000/-	9 Months	Class I
4	Construction of 14 Class Rooms, Science Lab, 1 No. Girls Toilet, 1 No Boys Toilet Block, Drinking water facility and compound wall in GHSS at Kullikani in Thiruvor District (under NABARD Scheme)	210.00	1,15,000/-	8 Months	Class I

Last date for receipt of tender : 02.03.2018 upto 3.00 P.M. | Date of opening of tender : 02.03.2018 @ 3.30 P.M.
Date availability of tender documents : 01.02.2018 to 01.03.2018 | Cost of tender schedule Document cost : Rs.10000/- (+) GST: Rs.1800/-
EMD to be credited: S.No. 1 & 2 : Executive Engineer PWD, Buildings (C&M) Circle, Thiruvor. | S.No. 3 : Executive Engineer PWD, Buildings (C&M) Division, Pudukottai.
S.No. 4 : Executive Engineer PWD, Buildings (C&M) Division, Nagercoil.

1. Tender documents, are available in the following website and can also be downloaded at free of cost: www.tenders.tn.gov.in. Approximate value of work is given as excluding GST.
2. Any other details can be had from the Office of the Superintending Engineer, PWD, Buildings (Construction and Maintenance) Circle, Trichy - 1, during working hours.
LSP/441/Tender/2018

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
TAMIL NADU HOUSING BOARD
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PROJECT CIRCLE, CHENNAI-35.
RE-TENDER NOTICE No:SE/PC/16/2017-18 Dated: 31.01.2018
Wax Sealed tenders with pre-qualification system tenders are invited for the following work by the Superintending Engineer, Project Circle, Tamil Nadu Housing Board, No. 485, M.T.B Building, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai-600 035.

Sl.No	Description of Work	Approximate value (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD Amount Rs.
1	Balance work (Left Over) for Area Development of 507 No's of residential plots (HIG-134 Nos, MIG-373 Nos) of in Kilimadambedu Phase-II Gummidipoondi Taluk, Thiruvallur district. Retender (SE/PC/25/2017)	174.00	97,000/-

Last Date for receipt of tender 21.02.2018 upto 3.00 pm., Date of Opening of tender 21.02.2018 at 3.15 pm., Date of availability of tender document 14.02.2018 to 20.02.2018. Cost of tender document Rs.15,750/- including GST.
1. The tender schedule can also be downloaded from the website www.tenders.tn.gov.in at free of cost.
2. Further particulars and tender documents can be had from the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Project Circle, Tamil Nadu Housing Board during office hours.
Superintending Engineer, Project Circle
DIPR/443/Tender/2018

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Buildings (C&M) Circle, Madurai - 625 002.
Notice Inviting Tenders (Lumpsum Contract Item Rate Tender)
Tender Notice No: 95E/Buildings (C&M) Circle, Madurai/ 2017-2018 / Date: 29.01.2018
For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu sealed Tenders are invited from the contractors registered in Public Works Department in the appropriate class to the office of Superintending Engineer, PWD, Buildings (C&M) Circle, Madurai.

Tender Schedule Available Date : 01.02.2018 to 20.02.2018 Upto 5.45 PM
Tender Schedule Receiving Date : Up to 3.00 PM on 21.02.2018
Tender Opening at : 3.30 PM on the same day
Total No. of Works : 8 (Eight)
Total Approximate Value of Works : Rs.1203.00 Lakhs

For further details and tender documents visit the website www.tenders.tn.gov.in and www.tntenders.gov.in.
Superintending Engineer, PWD., Buildings (C&M) Circle, Madurai.
DIPR/441/Tender/2018

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Buildings (C&M) Circle, Madurai - 625 002.
Notice Inviting Tenders (Lumpsum Contract Pre Qualification & Price Tender) (Two Cover System)
Tender Notice No: 105E/Buildings (C&M) Circle, Madurai/ 2017-2018 / Date: 29.01.2018
For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu sealed Tenders are invited from the contractors registered in Public Works Department in the appropriate class to the office of Superintending Engineer, PWD, Buildings (C&M) Circle, Madurai.

Tender Schedule Available Date : 01.02.2018 to 27.02.2018 Upto 5.45 PM
Tender Schedule Receiving Date : Up to 3.00 PM on 21.02.2018
PQ Tender Opening at : 3.30 PM on the same day
Total No. of Works : 5 (Five)
Total Approximate Value of Works : Rs.1254.00 Lakhs

For further details and tender documents visit the website www.tenders.tn.gov.in and www.tntenders.gov.in.
Superintending Engineer, PWD., Buildings (C&M) Circle, Madurai.
DIPR/442/Tender/2018

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LTD.- TENDER NOTICE
O/o Chief Engineer (Renewable Energy and Energy Savings), Vidyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram- 695 004, Phone - 0471 - 2514551
Tender No. 12/KSEBL/CE (REES) Solar - Meter/2017-18
NAME OF WORK: Supply various types LT, Bi-directional Energy meters (Single Phase - 450 nos.; Three Phases whole current - 1200; Three Phases C.T. operated - 200;H.T. Three Phases, CT/PT operated - 70)
PAC: Rs. 80,00,000/- EMD: Rs. 50,000/-
Last date for submission of tender documents : 12.02.2018 5 PM
For details please visit www.kseb.in and download tender documents from www.tenders.kerala.gov.in or PR/NC/12/tbwinform/2729/2018
Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
(Duly Constituted Authority).
Telangana State Beverages Corporation Limited)
'D' Block, 2nd Floor, Prohibition & Excise Complex, 9 & 10-Eastern, M.J.Road, Nampally, Hyd-01.
e-PROCUREMENT NOTIFICATION
Lr. No. TSBC/L/Beer/2017-18 Date: 30-01-2018
The State of Telangana (Duly Constituted Authority, Telangana State Beverages Corporation Limited) invites e-Offers for supply of "Beer" as per the conditions specified therein, Description: "SUPPLY OF BEER". Date of Commencement of sale of offer through online: 01-02-2018 at 10:30 am. Last Date of submission of offer through online: 12-02-2018 at 2:00 pm. Details can be downloaded from websites: www.eprocurement.telangana.gov.in and <https://tender.telangana.gov.in>. Phone: 040-24743437/38, Fax: 040-24743439, e-mail: tsbcmmm@yahoo.co.in
Sd/- The State of Telangana Duly Constituted Authority, Managing Director, Telangana State Beverages Corporation Limited.
DIPR No. 351/P/CL-Agency/ADVT/1/2017-18, Dt: 31.01.2017.

GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION
Buildings Department
B.D.C.No.B1/1668/2017 e-TENDER NOTICE
Tenders are invited for the Superintending Engineer (Buildings for the following works as per details furnished below
Proposed Construction of Conventional toilet, Supply, Installation Maintenance and Housekeeping of Rental toilet and Various type of e-toilet for a period of 1 year in Zone - 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14 & 15
For more information see <http://tntenders.gov.in> & www.chennaicorporation.gov.in
Tender Value: Rs.8,03,09,800/-
Tender date and Time: 16.02.2018 up to 3.00 P.M
Tender open date and Time: 16.02.2018 at 3.30 P.M
DIPR/431/Tender/2018 Superintending Engineer (Buildings)

TAMILNADU POLICE HOUSING CORPORATION LTD
(A Government of Tamil Nadu Undertaking)
No.187, Inspector's quarters, PGR Line, Behind CPO Building, Annadhanapatti, Linemedu, Salem - 636 006.
e-TENDER INVITATION FOR BIDS No.44/2017-18 Dt. 31.01.2018

Sl.No	Name of work	App. Value	Sale period	Opening
1.	Construction of quarters for Station Officer (1 No) and Firemen (12 Nos) at Alanganayam in Vellore District	140.42 + GST@12%	08.02.2018 to 15.02.2018	15.02.2018
2.	Construction of New Multiplex Police station building (Law & Order, Traffic & Crime) with development works at Dharapuram in Tiruppur District	100.81 + GST@12%	08.02.2018 to 15.02.2018	15.02.2018
3.	Construction of Urban Police Station Building at Hosur in Krishnagiri District	65.41 + GST@12%	09.02.2018 to 16.02.2018	16.02.2018
4.	Construction of Urban Police Station Building at Virudhampet in Vellore District	61.90 + GST@12%	09.02.2018 to 16.02.2018	16.02.2018
5.	Construction of Office building 'Q' branch CID with development works at Villupuram in Villupuram District	60.85 + GST@12%	09.02.2018 to 16.02.2018	16.02.2018

For details visit www.tntenders.gov.in and TNPHC website www.tnphc.com
DIPR/429/TENDER/2018 Superintending Engineer / North Circle, TNPHC Ltd / Salem - 06

TENDERS / NOTICES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
FISHERIES DEPARTMENT
TENDER NOTICE No. TAFCOFED/1228/B/2017 Dated: 01.02.2018
For and on behalf of Director of Fisheries / Functional Registrar, the Additional Director of Fisheries/Managing Director, Tamilnadu State Apex Fisheries Cooperative Federation Limited, Tamilnadu Housing Board Shopping Complex, 1Ind Floor, Ashok Nagar, Chennai-83., invites tenders for supply of 500 number of FRP Coracles as per specifications at a total estimated cost of Rs.62.50 Lakhs. Last date and time of submission of tender is upto 15 Hrs on 01.02.2018. Tender form, conditions and specifications can be downloaded from the websites www.tnfisheries.tn.gov.in and www.tenders.tn.gov.in.
ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES / MANAGING DIRECTOR
DIPR/444/Tender/2018

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
COIMBATORE CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
TENDER NOTICE - FIRST CALL
Improvement to damaged roads due to under ground sewerage scheme, water supply improvement scheme and due to natural calamities within Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation under the "Tamilnadu Urban Road Infrastructure Programme" (TURIP) form Of Contract: Item Rate (Two Cover System)
Tender Notice No.02/2018 Date : 29.01.2018
1. Bids are invited in packages for improvement to damaged roads due to under ground sewerage scheme, water supply improvement scheme and due to natural calamities in Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation of Tamil Nadu (Two Cover System) (Package -1 to 3)
2.The bid documents can be downloaded from the website <https://tntenders.gov.in>, <http://www.cmcnc.gov.in> free of cost
3. Tender documents can be downloaded upto 15.00 hours on 01.03.2018 online submission of tender will also be accepted.
4.Amount of Earnest Money Deposit will be 1% of the value put to tender for a package.
5. Any additional/further details and conditions related to these works can be had from the office of the Commissioner, Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation
6. Important dates
1. Date and time of Pre-bid meeting-12.02.2018 at 11.00 AM
2.Last Date and time for downloading bid documents, including offline Submission 02.03.2018 at 15.00 hours
3. Date and time of opening of the Technical Bid- 02.03.2018 at 16.00 hours
7. In the event of the specified date for submission of bids is declared as a holiday, bids will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time. Commissioner, Coimbatore Corporation, Periyar Kadai Veedhi, Town Hall, Coimbatore - 01. Ph.No : 0422 2386026. Email: cmccmr.coimbatore@tn.gov.in Commissioner & Special Officer Coimbatore Corporation
DIPR/ 433 /TENDER/2018

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
COIMBATORE CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
TENDER NOTICE - FIRST CALL
Improvement to damaged roads due to under ground sewerage scheme, water supply improvement scheme and due to natural calamities within Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation under the "Tamilnadu Urban Road Infrastructure Programme" (TURIP) form Of Contract: Item Rate (Two Cover System)
Tender Notice No.03/2018 Date : 29.01.2018
1. Bids are invited in packages for improvement to damaged roads due to under ground sewerage scheme, water supply improvement scheme and due to natural calamities in Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation of Tamil Nadu (Two Cover System) (Package -1 to 5)
2.The bid documents can be downloaded from the website <https://tntenders.gov.in>, <http://www.cmcnc.gov.in> free of cost
3. Tender documents can be downloaded upto 15.00 hours on 04.03.2018 online submission of tender will also be accepted.
4.Amount of Earnest Money Deposit will be 1% of the value put to tender for a package.
5. Any additional/further details and conditions related to these works can be had from the office of the Commissioner, Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation
6. Important dates
1. Date and time of Pre-bid meeting-14.02.2018 at 11.00 AM
2.Last Date and time for downloading bid documents, including offline Submission 05.03.2018 at 15.00 hours
3. Date and time of opening of the Technical Bid- 05.03.2018 at 16.00 hours
7. In the event of the specified date for submission of bids is declared as a holiday, bids will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time. Commissioner, Coimbatore Corporation, Periyar Kadai Veedhi, Town Hall, Coimbatore - 01. Ph.No : 0422 2386026. Email: cmccmr.coimbatore@tn.gov.in Commissioner & Special Officer Coimbatore Corporation
DIPR/ 432 /TENDER/2018

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Separate Sealed Tenders are invited for Allotment of Built up space for ATM in following Locations on License basis in Naya Raipur:-
NIT No: 885/R-05/PRJ/NRDA/2018, Naya Raipur, Dated: 30.01.2018

S. No.	Location	EMD	Reserve License Fee (INR Per Month)	Cost of Tender Document
1.	Within Office Premises of NRDA, Parayawas Bhawan, Sector 19	5,000/-Rs.	10,000/-Rs.	Rs. 5,900/-
2.	Jan Suvidha Kendra, Sector 7	5,000/-Rs.	10,000/-Rs.	Rs. 5,900/-
3.	Jan Suvidha Kendra, Sector 24	5,000/-Rs.	10,000/-Rs.	Rs. 5,900/-

The eligibility, the terms of payment, process of allotment and terms and conditions of allotment are given in the detailed notice inviting tender which can be downloaded from the website www.nayaraipur.gov.in. The last date of submission of tender is 20th February 2018 before 3.00 PM. Amendment, Corrigendum or Modification if any, shall be published in the website only.
Naya Raipur Development Authority
Parayawas Bhawan, North Block, Sector - 19, Naya Raipur
492 002 Chhattisgarh, T: +91.771.251.2095
NAYA RAIPUR - MERA RAIPUR Chief Executive Officer

IN BRIEF



Giant quakes not as random as thought: Researchers

London: Giant earthquakes reoccur at relatively regular intervals, scientists have found by analysing sediment cores from Chilean lakes. Taking smaller earthquakes also into account, the repeat interval becomes increasingly more irregular to a level where earthquakes happen randomly in time, researchers said.

"In 1960, South-Central Chile was hit by the largest known quake on Earth with a magnitude of 9.5," said Jasper Moernaut, an assistant professor at the University of Innsbruck in Austria. "Its tsunami was so massive that — in addition to inundating the Chilean coastline — it travelled across the Pacific Ocean and even killed about 200 persons in Japan," said Moernaut, lead author of the study published in the journal *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*. "Understanding when and where such devastating giant earthquakes may occur in the future is a crucial task for the geoscientific community," Moernaut said.

It is generally believed that giant earthquakes release so much energy that several centuries of stress accumulation are needed to produce a new big one, researchers said. Therefore, seismological data or historical documents simply do not go back far enough in time to reveal the patterns of their recurrence, they said.

By analysing sediments on the bottom of two Chilean lakes, the researchers recognised that each strong earthquake produces underwater landslides which get preserved in the sedimentary layers accumulating on the lake floor. By sampling these layers in up to eight metre long sediment cores, they retrieved the earthquake history over the last 5,000 years, including up to 35 earthquakes of a magnitude larger than 7.7. — *PTI*

Global cancer survival rates improve

London: Cancer patients' survival prospects are improving, even for some of the deadliest types — such as lung cancer, but there are huge disparities between countries, particularly for children, according to a study published on Wednesday. In the most up-to-date study of cancer survival trends — between 2010 and 2014 — covering countries that are home to two-thirds of the world's people, researchers found some significant progress, but also wide variations. While brain tumour survival in children has improved in many countries, the study showed that for children diagnosed as recently as 2014, five-year survival is twice as high in Denmark and Sweden, at around 80 percent, as it is in Mexico and Brazil, at less than 40 percent. This gap was most likely due to variations in the availability and quality of cancer diagnosis and treatment services, the researchers said. "Despite improvements in awareness, services and treatments, cancer still kills more than 100,000 children every year worldwide," said Michel Coleman, a professor at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine who co-led the research. For most cancers over the past 15 years, survival is highest in just a few wealthy countries — the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Finland. — *PTI*

■ **Rheumatoid arthritis is an autoimmune and inflammatory disease that causes the immune system to attack a person's joints, muscles, bones and organs. It can occur at any age, but the most common onset is between 40 and 60 years old and is three times more prevalent in women.**



New 'smart' material to help fight tooth decay

Toronto, Jan. 31: Researchers have developed a 'smart' material to minimise new cavities caused by bacteria digging under the dental fillings. These recurrent caries affect 100 million patients every year and cost an additional USD 34 billion to treat, researchers said. In the study published in the journal *Scientific Reports*, researchers from the University of Toronto in Canada have proposed a novel solution.

They have developed a filling material with tiny particles made by self-assembly of antimicrobial drugs which is designed to stop bacteria in its tracks. These particles may solve one of the biggest problems with antibacterial filling materials: storing enough drug within the material to be effective for someone's entire life.

"Adding particles packed with antimicrobial drugs to a filling creates a line of defence against cavity-causing bacteria," said Professor Ben Hatton. "Traditionally there has only been enough drug to last a few weeks.

We discovered a combination of drugs and silica glass that organise themselves on a molecule-by-molecule basis to maximise drug density, with enough supply to last years," said Hatton.

The discovery of using antimicrobials which self-assemble means the team can pack 50 times as much of the bacteria-fighting drugs into the particles, researchers said.

"We know very well that bacteria specifically attack the margins between fillings and the remaining tooth to create cavities," said Professor Yoav Finer. "Giving these materials an antimicrobial supply that will last for years could greatly reduce this problem," said Finer.

The research team plans on testing these new drug-storing particles in dental fillings, monitoring their performance when attacked by bacteria. — *PTI*



New York, Jan. 31: A strain of bacteria commonly found in milk and beef may be a trigger for developing rheumatoid arthritis in people who are genetically at risk, according to a study.

Researchers at the University of Central Florida (UCF) in the US have discovered a link between rheumatoid arthritis and *Mycobacterium avium* subspecies *paratuberculosis*, known as MAP, a bacteria found in about half the cows in the US.

The bacteria can be spread to humans through the consumption of infected milk, beef and produce fertilised by cow manure.

The researchers are the first to report this con-

nection between MAP and rheumatoid arthritis in a study published in the journal *Frontiers in Cellular and Infection Microbiology*. They had previously discovered a connection between MAP and Crohn's disease. Crohn's and rheumatoid arthritis (RA) share the

same genetic predispositions and both are often treated using the same types of immunosuppressive drugs.

"Here you have two inflammatory diseases, one affects the intestine and the other affects the joints, and both share the same genetic defect and treated with the same drugs," said Saleh Naser, UCF infectious disease specialist.

For the study, Shazia Beg, rheumatologist at UCF recruited 100 of her patients who volunteered clinical samples for testing.

Seventy-eight per cent of the patients with rheumatoid arthritis were found to have a mutation in the PTPN22/22 gene, the same

genetic mutation found in Crohn's patients, and 40 per cent of that number tested positive for MAP.

"We believe that individuals born with this genetic mutation and who are later exposed to MAP through consuming contaminated milk or meat from infected cattle are at a higher risk of developing rheumatoid arthritis," Naser said.

Rheumatoid arthritis is an autoimmune and inflammatory disease that causes the immune system to attack a person's joints, muscles, bones and organs.

Patients suffer from pain and deformities mostly in the hands and feet. It can occur at any age but the most common onset is between 40 and 60 years old and is three times more prevalent in women.

"We do not know the cause of rheumatoid arthritis, so we are excited that we have found this association," Beg said.

"But there is still a long way to go. We need to find out why MAP is more dominant in these patients — whether it is present because they have RA, or whether it caused RA in these patients. If we find that out, then we can target treatment towards the MAP bacteria," she said. — *PTI*

Brain pacemaker may delay Alzheimer's symptoms: Study

Washington, Jan. 31: In a first, scientists have found that a brain pacemaker implant could help slow down the decline in problem-solving and decision-making skills in patients with Alzheimer's disease.

In a study published in the *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*, thin electrical wires were surgically implanted into the frontal lobes of the brains of patients with Alzheimer's disease.

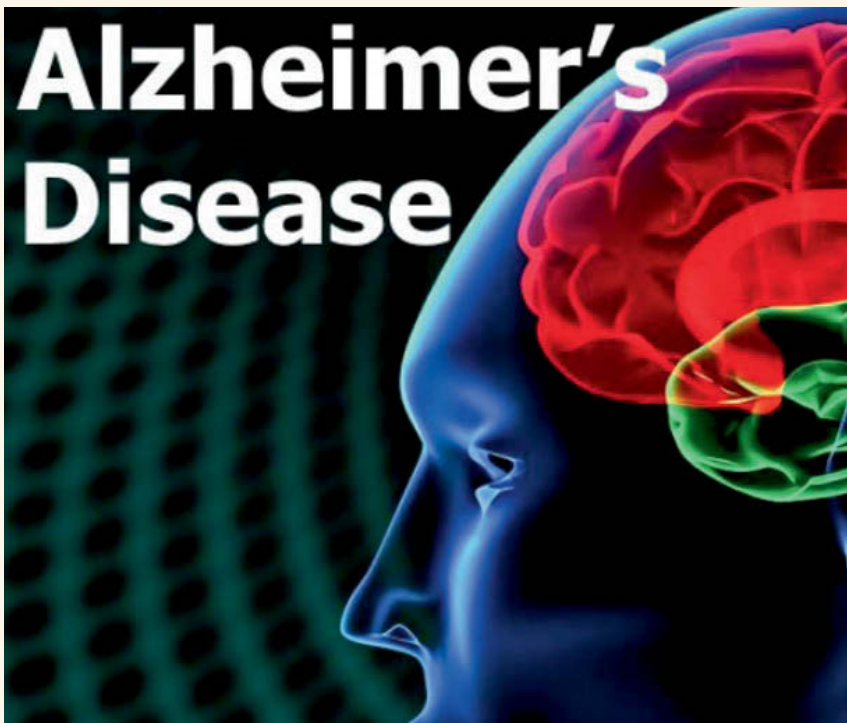
The researchers wanted to determine if using a brain pacemaker could improve cognitive, behavioural, and functional abilities in patients with this form of dementia.

The deep brain stimulation (DBS) implant is similar to a cardiac pacemaker device, except that the pacemaker wires are implanted in the brain rather than the heart.

"We have many memory aides, tools and pharmaceutical treatments to help Alzheimer's patients with memory," said Douglas Scharre from The Ohio State University in the US.

"But we don't have anything to help with improving their judgements, making good decisions, or increasing their ability to selectively focus attention on the task at hand and avoid distractions.

"These skills are necessary in performing daily tasks such as making the bed, choosing



what to eat and having meaningful socialising with friends and family," said Scharre.

The frontal lobes are responsible for our abilities to solve problems, organise and plan, and utilise good judgements, researchers said.

By stimulating this region of the brain, the Alzheimer's subjects' cognitive and daily functional abilities as a whole declined more slowly than Alzheimer's patients in a matched comparison group not being treated with DBS, they said.

The pilot study found

► **'The frontal lobes are responsible for our abilities to solve problems. By stimulating this region, the Alzheimer's subjects' cognitive abilities declined more slowly than Alzheimer's patients in a matched comparison group not being treated with DBS'.**

that DBS targeting frontal brain regions can reduce the overall

performance decline typically seen in people with mild or early stage Alzheimer's, Scharre said.

"This same technology has been successfully used to treat more than 135,000 patients worldwide with Parkinson's disease," said Ali Rezaei from West Virginia University in the US.

"Our findings suggest that frontal network modulation to improve executive and behavioural deficits should be further studied in patients with Alzheimer's disease," said Rezaei. — *PTI*



Nasa satellite maps global distribution of cloud ice

Washington, Jan. 31: A bread loaf-sized satellite has produced the first map of the global distribution of atmospheric ice in the 883-Gigahertz band, an important frequency for studying cloud ice and its effect on Earth's climate, NASA said today.

IceCube the diminutive spacecraft that deployed from the International Space Station (ISS) in May, last year — has demonstrated in-space a commercial 883-Gigahertz radiometer capable of measuring critical atmospheric cloud ice properties at altitudes between five to 15 kilometres.

NASA scientists pioneered the use of sub-millimeter wavelength bands, which fall between the microwave and infrared on the electromagnetic spectrum, to sense ice clouds.

However, until IceCube, these instruments had flown only aboard high-altitude research aircraft. This meant scientists could gather data only in areas over which the aircraft flew.

"With IceCube, scientists now have a working submillimeter radiometer system in space at a commercial price," said Dong Wu, a scientist and IceCube principal investigator at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

"More importantly, it provides a global view on Earth's cloud-ice distribution," said Wu.

Sensing atmospheric cloud ice requires scientists deploy instruments tuned to a broad range of frequency bands.

However, it is particularly important to fly submillimeter sensors. This wavelength fills a significant data gap in the middle and upper troposphere where ice clouds are often too opaque for infrared and visible sensors to penetrate.

It also reveals data about the tiniest ice particles that cannot be detected clearly in other microwave bands.

IceCube's map is a first of its kind and bodes well for future space-based observations of global ice clouds using submillimeter-wave technology. — *PTI*

Long 'lost' Nasa satellite re-discovered

Washington, Jan. 31: A NASA satellite considered 'dead' for more than a decade has been found to be still functioning, the US space agency said today.

The identity of the satellite re-discovered on January 20 has been confirmed as the Imager for NASA's Magnetopause-to-Aurora Global Exploration (IMAGE).

The Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab in the US successfully collected telemetry data from the satellite. The signal showed that the space craft ID was 166 — the ID for IMAGE, NASA said.

The space agency has been able to read some basic housekeeping data from the spacecraft, suggesting that at least the main control system is operational.

Scientists and engineers at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center will continue to try to analyse the data from the spacecraft. After an amateur

astronomer recorded observations of a satellite in high Earth orbit on January 20, his initial research suggested it was IMAGE — a NASA mission launched into orbit around Earth on March 25, 2000.

Seeking to ascertain whether the signal indeed came from IMAGE, NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center coordinated the use of five separate antennas to acquire radio frequency signals from the object.

IMAGE was designed to image Earth's magnetosphere and produce the first comprehensive global images of the plasma populations in this region.

After extending its initial two-year mission in 2002, the satellite unexpectedly failed to make contact on a routine pass on December 18, 2005.

After a 2007 eclipse failed to induce a reboot, the mission was declared over. — *PTI*

Vitamin D3 may help treat, prevent heart damage: Study

Washington, Jan. 31: Vitamin D3 — produced in the body naturally when exposed to sunlight — may significantly restore damage to cardiovascular system, a study claims.

Researchers at Ohio University in the US found that vitamin D3 can prevent or heal the damage to the cardiovascular system caused by several diseases, including hypertension, diabetes and atherosclerosis.

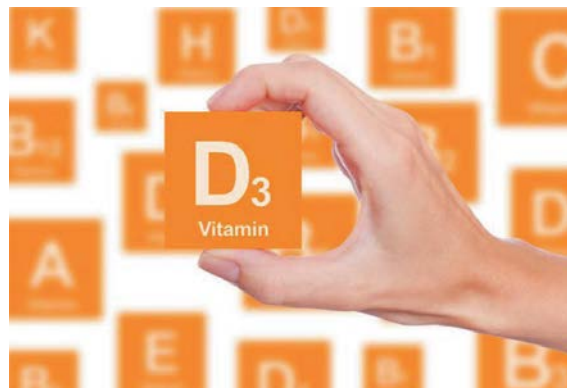
Vitamin D3 supplements are also available over the counter.

"Generally, vitamin D3 is associated with the

bones. However, in recent years, in clinical settings people recognise that many patients who have a heart attack will have a deficiency of D3," said Professor Tadeusz Malinski.

"It does not mean that the deficiency caused the heart attack, but it increased the risk of heart attack," said Malinski.

In the study published in the *International Journal of Nanomedicine*, the researchers used nanosensors to see why vitamin D3 can be beneficial, especially for the



function and restoration of the cardiovascular system.

The team has developed unique methods and systems of measurements

using nanosensors, which are about 1,000 times smaller in diameter than a human hair, to track the impacts of vitamin D3 on single endothelial cells, a vital regulatory component of the cardiovascular system.

A major discovery from these studies is that vitamin D3 is a powerful stimulator of nitric oxide (NO), which is a major signalling molecule in the regulation of blood flow and the prevention of the formation of clots in the cardiovascular system, researchers said.

Additionally, vitamin D3

significantly reduced the level of oxidative stress in the cardiovascular system, they said.

These studies show that treatment with vitamin D3 can significantly restore the damage to the cardiovascular system caused by several diseases, including hypertension, atherosclerosis, and diabetes, while also reducing the risk of heart attack, researchers said.

The studies, performed on cells from Caucasian Americans and African Americans, yielded similar results for both ethnic groups, they said. — *PTI*



Apple rumoured to launch three new MacBooks with its own chips; suggests reduced dependence on other companies

IN BRIEF

Vivaldi 1.14 introduces vertical mode



Vivaldi launched version 1.14, which has the first of its kind vertical reader mode. With this reading view, users can now access content and experience a clutter-free reading environment. They can change the font, adjust the line height, column width and switch to dark or light background while in reader view. Users will be able to read texts in Chinese, Japanese and Korean languages with no distracting page elements. Users can also choose their reading preference by accessing web pages in the settings and clicking on vertical text direction. People will also be able to create notes in the browser's sidebar and attach screenshots while they browse. The note-taking feature has been enhanced as it has received an upgrade with Markdown support, a natural and intuitive way of applying formatting. Formatting like headers, bolding and bullet lists to their notes while surfing the web will be possible with this feature, which in fact makes the whole experience for readers rather convenient. This feature is especially helpful for bloggers, journalists and researchers to quickly and instantly format text. The new version is available for download online.

Daiwa's new smart Android TV launched



Daiwa recently launched a 32-inch Smart TV, D325SCR. It claims to have a user-friendly interface along with a slim bezel technology. The company also claims to have a good picture quality with an A+ Grade panel and 16.7M display colour. The TV runs on Android 4.4 and uses a dual core 1.3GHz processor with 1GB RAM and 8GB storage as its guts. The TV comes with built in apps for entertainment, namely Netflix, YouTube, and Google Chrome. It also allows the user to connect with a sound bars or AV receivers via HDMI using ARC. Lastly, the D325SCR uses two Dolby 10W box speakers that claims for better quality sound. The Daiwa smart TV D325SCR is priced at ₹15,490 and only available in Grey colour.

Vintage BT speakers by X-mini



X-mini has launched a new range of portable speakers named 'X-mini SUPA,' which is available in Mystic Grey and Apricot Gold. It has built-in Digital Signal Processing, Dual Pressure Air Compression audio and a signature tweeter-in-tweeter technology. These technologies claim that the sound experience retains its original audio quality even at higher volumes, with minimal distortions. The speakers also come with two preset equalizers for vocal and bass, and one-swivel dial control. The X-mini also launched CLICK 2, a pocket-sized speaker designed for music on-the-go. It has a 36mm driver and features upto six hours of Bluetooth playtime. The CLICK 2 is available for ₹2,990, while the Supa is available for a price of ₹12,990.

It will provide gaze, voice and gesture controls Startup from IIT-Bombay on India's first AR headset

DC CORRESPONDENT

Since Microsoft's Hololens AR headset rolled for the world to use a few years ago, augmented reality has gone viral with both the manufacturers and the consumers. AR is predicted to be the next big thing and is expected to revolutionise the way we use computers. However, predicting the future is one thing and working towards it to increase its accessibility requires pretty considerable efforts, especially when you consider the immense costs required to make it reach the common man in various fields. However, India is known for making affordable alternatives to expensive solutions and one startup from IIT Bombay has come up with an AR headset to promote this next generation of computing. Indian startup Dimension NXG has come up with AjnaLens, which is claimed to be India's first home-grown AR headset. The headset is currently under development but has already achieved lots of accolades, one of which is the Graham Bell innovation Award. It will be some time before AjnaLens makes it to the hands of users, but the company claims that it will help improving certain sectors such as automobile, aerospace, manufacturing, health-



care, architecture and many more. They already got few pre-orders from India & USA. The AjnaLens basically displays holograms on the display, thus integrating AR objects with reality. Users will be able to see virtual objects in 3D and interact with them in intuitive ways. AjnaLens will allow the user to interact with the AR objects using hand gestures, voice commands and gaze controls (which is next-gen cursor control technology). For example, users will be able to interact with virtual furniture and adjust their size by pinching on the edges to adjust it to desired levels. With gaze controls, all you would need to navigate inside the interface is simply look at various UI elements. On the hardware front,

AjnaLens will come with the ability to 'see the world', i.e. it will scan the world in real-time using depth-sense technologies. The headset will be able to create a 3D map of the environment and measure AR elements accordingly to deliver the most realistic experience. On top of that, the software will take into account the presence of Artificial Intelligence and will work to improve the experience over time. The team working on the graphics of the AR headset is ensuring that AR objects will not merely remain cartoon figures in the real world — all the AR objects will blend with the environment by using ambient light shades on them. The team will be working on the VFX to make it look more real, i.e.

an AR car will have shadows on the other side when being viewed directly under the sunlight. The team is also working on realistic shaders to ensure the headset tries its best to blur the lines between all the realities. Given the aims that AjnaLens is expected to achieve; we expect the headset to use some really potent hardware underneath. In the coming days, it will be challenging for the company to commercialise the product in a country obsessed with efficient economics, considering the advanced technology that has gone under its hood. Therefore, it won't be long before you will have a personal JARVIS assistant at your disposal, telling you more about your surroundings than your eyes.

GOOGLE BLOCKS SEVEN MILLION APPS USING AI

DC CORRESPONDENT

Google through its Machine Learning techniques has taken down more than 7,00,000 apps which were violating the Google Play policy rules. The company says it is 70 per cent more apps compared to last year. "Not only did we remove more bad apps, we were able to identify and action against them earlier. In fact, 99 per cent of apps with abusive contents were identified and rejected before anyone could install them," says the company in its blogpost. This major detection and deletion of bad, inappropriate content or malware apps has been possible through Google's smart machine learning techniques. Primarily the company has taken down copycat apps, which were impersonating as famous apps and misleading the users. The company has taken down more than a quarter of a million of impersonating apps. Google PlayStore has undergone some serious allegations last year about inappropriate content especially in the kids applications. Google is using its detection method taken down these apps as well.

Epson launches five new InkTank printers

DC CORRESPONDENT

Epson has launched a new series of A4 Wi-Fi printers with integrated InkTanks. The newly integrated InkTank printers consist of five models — L4150, L4160 L6160, L6170 and L6190. Of all the five new Wi-Fi printers launched, the L4150 will offer duplex printing. The latest L-series InkTank printers continue to offer low printing costs, at 12 paise for B & W and 20



paise for Colour composite. With a new design, the new L-series printers integrate the InkTank into the printer, which seems to be an improvement on previous models. The printers lower the total cost of ownership of businesses with the page yields of 7,500 B&W pages and 6,000 colour pages for each complete set of 4 ink bottles. The new models also offer the smallest footprint amongst various

brands of InkTank printers. The company claims that these printers are made with inputs of customer feedback. And, the printer's easy-to-use spill-free ink bottles offer users ease and convenience when refilling the InkTank. Large-sized photo printing is made possible as the printers support borderless printing of up to A4 size. Other features include a 30-page Automatic Document Feeder (ADF) for unattended scanning and copying of multi-sheet documents. The price of the new printer starts at ₹15,000.

Honor 9 Lite: A show-off smartphone on a budget

AMRITANSHU MUKHERJEE

Honor has recently been seen as an aggressive player in the segment and their latest Honor 9 Lite is aimed at disrupting the segment with certain class-leading features. Honor goes a step ahead by offering an all-glass body and a quad-camera setup and spicing it up with a jaw-dropping price of ₹10,999 for the base 3GB/32GB variant. The smartphone is an attention seeker with its mirror-finished, all glass body. Sadly, Honor has used a plastic frame sandwiched between the two non-scratch resistant glasses, both of which

end up looking vulnerable to damage from simple scratches, bumps and drops. The 9 Lite's 5.6-inch 18:9 LCD display is very capable with good dynamic range and contrasts. Powering the 9 Lite is their own octa-core HiSilicon Kirin 659 chipset along with 3GB RAM / 32GB storage or 4GB RAM / 64GB version, where both offer storage expansion of up to 256GB. With latest EMUI 8.0 based on Android 8.0 Oreo, 9 Lite earns brownie points. The performance can at best be described as 'swift', although occasional hiccups were noticed while switching between

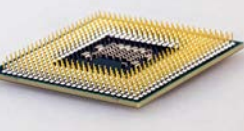


resource-intensive apps. With a 13MP + 2MP dual sensor setup for both the front and rear cameras, the 9 Lite manages to deliver above average pictures — images tend to show good colours and contrasts. The dual front camera manages sufficient amount of details in the photos with a good dynamic range along with a portrait mode. The 9 Lite's 3000mAh battery manages to serve a full day under a moderate texting, binge-watching YouTube, taking lots of selfies and web browsing. Overall, the 9 Lite is a decent alternative to the likes of Xiaomi and Motorola handsets falling under the ₹15,000 price bracket. If you are looking for an all-glass body with an 18:9 display, selfie portraits and decent performance, this should make it to the top of your list.

MediaTek brings facial recognition

DC CORRESPONDENT

MediaTek is a well-known firm for making expensive and exclusive features on smartphone affordable. Some of the renowned manufacturers in the field rely on Mediatek's chipsets for keeping a balance between features and affordability. It seems that MediaTek is again eyeing to make some of the modern premium smartphones features more accessible with the launch of their new budget chipset primarily for the upcoming Android Go devices. Called the MediaTek MT6739, the chipset is primarily meant for powering budget smartphones. It houses a 64-bit quad core processor with ARM Cortex-A53 CPUs that can be clocked up to 1.5Ghz. There's also native support for facial recognition technology. The company also says that the new chipset supports 4G VoLTE functions on both SIM card slots simultaneously (good for those using two Jio SIM cards) and will allow for larger full-screen 18:9 display designs on affordable



smartphones. The IMG GE8100 GPU operating up to 570MHz means that smartphones using this SoC will be able to push up to 1440 x 720-pixel resolution. The chipset supports up to 13MP sensors that record videos at Full HD resolution. It will not be a powerhouse chipset as MediaTek has only allowed support for up to 3GB of LPDDR3 RAM. With a budget chipset like this, OEMs looking to offer Android Go smartphones at reasonable price tags will be able to bring new technologies to the masses. There has been a confirmation of Micromax building new Android Go devices, one of which is expected to launch in late February in India. Also, Jio is working with MediaTek to bring affordable Android Go smartphones to the Indian consumer.

IPHONE SE 2 WON'T EXIST: MING-CHI KUO

DC CORRESPONDENT

There have been all kinds of rumours floating around about Apple's next iPhone SE. While some rumours suggest that the phone is expected to get an update sometime in this year, the other one says that there may only be some minor update, if at all something comes up. According to a recent report by MacRumors, KGI securities analyst Ming-Chi Kuo has researched on the trends and opinions and deduced that Apple might not have an updated SE this year. And if there is something, it may be a minor update, which will aim towards a specification boost, but nothing major like of wireless charging or anything on the similar lines. Three Apple phones are rumoured to be released this year and that itself may not give much time to the company to look into the developing an advanced version of SE. The next iPhone SE is rumoured to sport the same design as the iPhone 5, a 2012 model, and is still very much in demand (a smaller size and a budget-friendly iPhone is something people look forward to, of course). If at all we see an updated SE or a successor to it, the model will be expected to have a 2017 processor.



FORMULA RACERS GO ELECTRIC

Electrical propulsion is the future of automobiles and the automakers are pushing themselves to make the electric vehicles more practical than before by participating in Formula E championships. For 2018, the race car blueprint has been unveiled and we are looking at high endurance batteries than before — 54kWh Li-ion power reservoirs. This claims the new car to last for a full race, which means teams will

only have to invest in two cars instead of four. Called the Spark SRT05e, the car also adopts new aerodynamic body kits with an aim on reducing drag instead of creating more downforce. Participants will have to battle it out in battery management programmes and high-power electronics. In tune with the latest F1 regulations, the new car will also have a 'Halo' to ensure driver safety in the event of a crash.



Power efficiency: Indian brands bank high on inverter ACs

These air conditioners are meant for consumers looking for cost-effective and energy efficient products at home

DC CORRESPONDENT

Owing to the increasing need for energy efficiency, Air Conditioner (AC) makers are shifting towards Inverter AC from conventional ACs. The share of Inverter ACs is expected to grow significantly over the next three to four years. With fast-growing of Inverter AC segment and increased consumer awareness around indoor air quality, innovations like enhanced air filters will be part of Inverter ACs in the near future. The Inverter AC range is meant for the consumers

who are looking for energy efficient products. These have also proven to be cost-effective in the long run as compared to the normal ACs. The AC industry has grown considerably over the years. From a luxury product, ACs have now become a necessity and the Inverter AC segment has witnessed a 100 per cent growth this year with more than 40 per cent contribution as compared to 15 per cent in 2016. It is further expected to reach to around 60-70 per cent or more in 2018, with all players shifting their focus

KEY POINTS

- ▶ Inverter ACs are also proven to be cost-effective in the long run as compared to the normal ACs.
- ▶ Powerful air filters will be part of these ACs in the future.
- ▶ The Inverter AC segment has seen a 100 per cent growth in 2017.

to inverter technology. Take for example Samsung. In 2017, the brand launched a new line of ACs called S-Inverter series, which was tailor-made for Indian conditions. It is equipped with the world's first 8-pole BLDC motor, for faster cooling performance of up to 43 per cent, has a better durability, and also features DuraFin on the

outdoor unit for better corrosion resistance as compared to conventional PFC. Such ACs are best suitable for India, which also come along with a Voltage Protector feature that can handle voltage fluctuations from 146V to 290V. The Inverter AC segment has witnessed a 100 per cent growth in 2017 with more than 40 per cent contribution as compared to 15 per cent in 2016 and is further expected to reach to round 60-70 per cent or more in 2018, with all players shifting their focus to inverter technology. Going ahead, Samsung will also introduce a unique concept in inverter air conditioning, which will change the way how consumers perceive the working of the air conditioners. Over the time, consumers have developed preferences for energy

efficient models. Inverter built systems vary basis the speed of the compressors and deliver precise cooling, thereby cutting down the power consumption. In India, the Inverter AC segment is relatively new but fast growing. Growth outlook in India is believed to be favourable as more and more customers are becoming aware of the benefits of the Inverter Technology. As a result, the Inverter AC segment in the last two years has seen phenomenal growth and is estimated to continue. Growth in inverter segment has surpassed the growth of normal split AC segment. Globally, all developed countries have migrated to Inverter ACs which comprises of 90 per cent of the category today. In the Indian market, the perception of towards the product has also been shifting

and a large section of the urban middle class considers it as more of a necessity rather than a luxury item, given the warm and humid climate here. Inverter ACs have raised the bar for energy efficiency of air conditioners in India and is no more a burden on electricity bills. The market for ACs in India still has untapped potential and a lot of scope for market penetration. Over the last 1.5 years, we have seen the prices of inverter ACs come down by 10-15

per cent. On the other hand, in 2018 new and stricter norms are coming from the AC sector. It will become mandatory for all AC segment to follow the standard and norms. It is expected that the price of ACs will rise.





1 EURO ₹79.18
1 £ ₹90.03
1 \$ ₹1.24
1 ₹ ₹1.42

INDICATORS

FII NET BUY:
\$163.57mn (Jan. 30)
FOREIGN RESERVES:
\$414.78b (Jan. 19)
INFLATION:
5.21% in Dec. 2017

BIZ BRIEFS

Samsung to hire 1K staff for R&D

Mumbai: Samsung on Wednesday said it would be hiring 1,000 engineers from top institutes for its three R&D facilities in India. It would be hiring the talent from IITs, NITs, Delhi College of Engineering, BITS Pilani, Manipal and IIITs among others. "Samsung is extremely bullish on R&D in India. We have been here for over 22 years. The three R&D centres in India work on several cutting edge technologies," Samsung global senior VP and MD Samsung R&D Institute India Dipesh Shah said. — PTI

Union Bank sells stake in Experian

New Delhi: Public sector lender Union Bank of India has sold its entire 10 per cent stake in Experian Credit Information Company for an undisclosed amount. "The bank has sold its entire stake of 10 per cent (1.4 crore unlisted equity shares) in Experian Credit Information Company of India Pvt Ltd on January 30, 2018," Union Bank of India said in a regulatory filing on Wednesday. The lender did not provide the transaction amount for stake sale. Shares of Union Bank traded 1.14 per cent lower at ₹134.35 on BSE. — PTI

KVB posts ₹421 cr profit in Q3

Chennai: The Net interest income of Karur Vysya Bank in Q3 improved to Rs. 562 crore from ₹518 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous year, registering a growth of 8.5%. The Non-interest income for the quarter increased by 32.35% from ₹170 crore to ₹225 crore. The Core fee income for the quarter grew by ₹41 crore to Rs. 153 crore from ₹112 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous year, registering a growth of 36.47%. The operating profit increased by ₹86 crore (25.72%) from ₹335 crore to ₹421 crore. The total business increased to ₹1,01,955 crore as on December 31, 2017, registering a year-on-year growth of 9.01% from ₹93,525 crore on December 31, 2016, backed by a robust credit growth of 16.58%. The advances grew by ₹6,377 crore from ₹38,459 crore to ₹44,836 crore. Deposits increased from ₹55,066 crore to ₹57,119 crore, registering 3.73% growth. The Gross NPA as on Dec. 31, 2017 is ₹2,663 crore (5.94%) and Net NPA is ₹1,699 crore. The same was ₹1,022 crore and 1.68% (₹638 crore), respectively, on Dec. 2016.

JIO DENIES LAUNCH OF ANY CRYPTOCOIN

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JAN. 31

Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio on Wednesday clarified that it has not launched any cryptocurrency.

In a statement Reliance Jio said, "The company has come across reports in media and other websites about the existence of purported JioCoin Apps on the Internet that are soliciting investments in crypto currencies from people."

Reliance Jio would like to inform the public that there are no such apps offered by the company or its affiliates/ associates, it said.

"Any such apps using the JioCoin name are fake and people are advised to refrain from dealing with any of them," said the company. Reliance Jio said it takes a serious note of such fraudulent attempts by unscrupulous persons to misguide the public in the name of the company and reserves the right to take appropriate legal recourse.

BIG CHANGE

GST takes sheen off Budget

■ **Jaitley's Budget may not influence prices of most goods and services**

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 31

Over 160 years after the Central Board of Excise and Customs was established by George Robinson, the General Budget in India would not impact the prices of most goods and services.

"After setting up of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, most of goods and services, barring a few, are not under the jurisdiction of parliament," said Dr Sunil Kumar Sinha, principal economist and director, public finance, India Ratings and Research, told this newspaper.

With a minuscule minority paying income-tax, the government had routinely used indirect taxes like excise duty (from 1855) and services tax (from 1990s) to raise revenue.

In July 2017, all state governments and Central government have transferred their power to levy VAT, excise and service tax to the GST Council.

In this aspect, Mr Sinha said the Budget this time would be "less exciting as

people can't expect prices of electronic items or vehicles going up or down or eating out getting costly or cheaper."

Petroleum products like petrol and diesel and customs duties still come under the jurisdiction of Parliament, said economist Devendra Pant.

While most goods and services are under the GST, Mr Pant said proposals relating to fuel prices and customs too can influence prices.

According to Vinay Saboo, the managing director of Maruti Suzuki dealership Saboo Motors, there used to be a lot of buzz around the Budget previously as people used to expect an increase or decrease in prices.

This time, however, he said there is no such activity to be seen.

Even for corporates, Mr Sinha added the Budget would not have the impact that it previously had in the absence of tax proposals influencing prices of a majority of goods and services. "Therefore, we wouldn't have sales-focus analysis for different sectors."

India wants Budget to focus on rural sector, says survey

DC CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, JAN. 31

While there are several expectations from the government's last full Budget ahead of 2019 polls, an online survey conducted by a leading social media platform showed that a majority of individuals want the government to give greater focus on the agriculture sector followed by infrastructure, healthcare and education.

Considering the distress in the agrarian economy, which still remains a major source of employment in the country, about 38 per cent of the respondents felt that the sector needs more focus from the government that would help increase farmers income.

The survey, conducted

by LocalCircles, also showed that women and child safety, disaster preparedness, skiller preparedness and free medical assistance for accidents are some of the new areas where citizens want the government to allocate greater amount of funds.

Around 56 per cent of citizens want sizable funds to be allocated to skill development, which is crucial for employment generation. When it comes to personal income tax, about 31 per cent felt the government should increase the exemption limit from ₹2.5 lakh to ₹3 lakh while 12 per cent of the respondents want the deduction allowed under section 80C to be increased to ₹2 lakh from ₹1.5 lakh.

Around 25 per cent of the respondents were in

favour of reducing the peak income tax rate to 25 per cent from 30 per cent.

The survey also revealed that citizens want the government to widen the tax base and create better awareness about paying income tax. About 13 per cent argued for a higher penalty on individuals and entities trying to evade tax.

With regards to corporate tax, 36 per cent of those surveyed felt the need for a reduction in tax rate to 25 per cent, 23 per cent said the government could maintain the current rate till GST revenues pick up.

When asked about measures required to improve compliance by smaller businesses, 45 per cent suggested bringing down the tax rate to 18 per cent.



Q3 NET PROFIT DIPS 32% FOR ICICI BANK

Mumbai, Jan. 31: ICICI Bank, India's third-largest lender by assets, reported its smallest profit in seven quarters on lower treasury income and as provisions rose from a year earlier but said bad loan additions were slowing.

Net profit for the three months to Dec. 31 fell 32 per cent year on year to ₹16.5 billion (\$259.4 million), the bank said on Wednesday.

Soured loans have nearly doubled at Indian banks over the past four years as a prolonged economic slowdown took its toll on the ability of companies to repay debt. The rise in non-performing loans has also been blamed on profligate lending in some cases.

While 21 state-run lenders account for bulk of the 9.46 trillion rupees of stressed loans at Sept. 30, private sector banks including ICICI also had more than a trillion rupees of non-performing and rolled-over debt.

ICICI's gross bad loans as a percentage of total loans was 7.82 per cent at the end of December, compared with 7.87 per cent at Sept. 30 and 7.2 per cent a year earlier.

Growth in bad loans slowed to 43.8 billion rupees in the past quarter, from ₹46.74 billion in the September quarter. That compared with ₹70.37 billion a year ago. — Reuters

Core sector growth dips to 4%

New Delhi, Jan. 31: Growth of the eight core sectors slowed to a five-month low of 4 per cent in December 2017 due to negative performance of segments like coal and crude oil, official data showed on Wednesday.

The output growth recorded in December is the lowest since July 2017, when these core sectors had witnessed 2.9 per cent expansion.

These eight industries — coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity — had witnessed a growth of 5.6 per cent in December 2016.

The output of coal and crude oil sectors contracted 0.1 per cent and 2.1 per cent respectively during the month under review.

Growth in steel and electricity generation slowed to 2.6 per cent and 3.3 per cent respectively in December last year as against 15.9 per cent and 6.4 per

CSO REVISES FY16 GROWTH RATE, KEEPS FY17 UNCHANGED

New Delhi, Jan. 31: The Central Statistics Office on Wednesday revised the GDP growth rate for FY16 to 8.2 per cent from the earlier estimates of 8 per cent and kept the FY17 growth unchanged at 7.1 per cent.

The real GDP or GDP at constant (2011-12) prices for the years FY17 and FY16 stands at ₹121.96 lakh crore and ₹113.86 lakh crore respectively, showing growth of 7.1 per cent during FY17 and 8.2 per cent during FY16, the CSO said.

In terms of real GVA

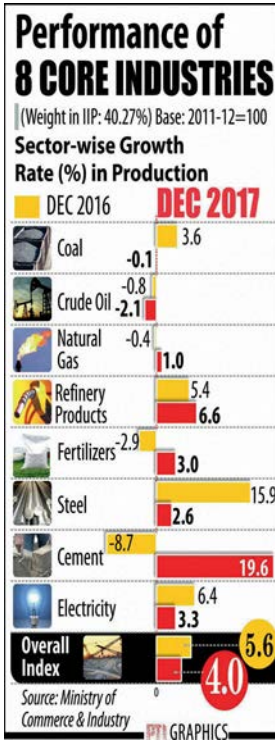
(gross value added), it said the GVA at constant (2011-12) basic prices grew 7.1 per cent in FY17, as against a growth of 8.1 per cent in 2015-16.

According to advance GDP estimates of CSO, the GVA growth on 2011-12 price was estimated at 6.6 per cent for 2016-17.

The CSO on Wednesday released the first revised estimates of national account for FY17 along with second revised estimates for FY16 and third revised estimates for FY15 (with base year 2011-12). — PTI

in the same month of 2016. Refinery products, natural gas, fertiliser and cement recorded healthy growth last month. Cumulatively, the

growth in the eight core sectors during April-December this fiscal slowed to 4 per cent as against 5.3 per cent in the same period last fiscal. — PTI



TV18 acquires majority control

Mumbai, Jan. 31: Mukesh Ambani-controlled TV18 Broadcast, a part of Network18 Media & Investments, on Wednesday said it will take majority control in Viacom 18 by acquiring its joint venture partner Viacom Inc's 1 per cent equity for a cash consideration of \$20 million.

"TV18 shall raise its stake to 51 per cent by acquiring 1 per cent of Viacom18's equity from the media conglomerate Viacom Inc for a cash consideration of \$20 million," TV18 Broadcast said. With this the brands and content licence agree-

ments between Viacom Inc and Viacom18 also get extended by 10 years, it added.

Viacom continues to hold 49 per cent in Viacom18 and shares TV18's vision for scalability and enhanced efficiency at Viacom18, it said.

It further said in the fast-evolving domestic media and entertainment landscape, the partners believe that TV18 can drive value-addition and synergies across the multi-platform group comprising broadcast, digital, filmed and experiential entertainment and media businesses. — PTI

TRACKING | TRENDS

■ **Consumers seek orders that would prevent such modifications in future**

US to probe into Apple slowing iPhones down

LEGAL TROUBLE

APPLE ADMITTED in December that iPhone software could slow down some phones with battery problems.

APPLE POSTED a public apology over its handling of the issue and lowered the price of iPhone battery replacements from \$79 to \$29.



unexpectedly to protect the delicate circuits inside, it said.

Apple posted a public apology over its handling

of the issue and lowered the price of iPhone battery replacements from \$79 to \$29.

Consumers so far have

filed some 50 proposed class action lawsuits over Apple's latest iPhone software update, which they allege caused unexpected shutdowns and hampered the performance of iPhone models of the SE, 6 and 7 lines.

They claim the company tricked consumers into believing their phones were close to the end of their life cycle, forcing them to buy new phones or pay up to \$80 for a replacement battery.

Most of the lawsuits have been filed in federal court in San Jose, California, but litigation over the software updates is also pending in other federal courts across the

Liquidation isn't resolution: IBBI

New Delhi, Jan. 31: Insolvency resolution process seeks to ensure that a company exists and the intention is not to sell it in pieces, IBBI chairperson M.S. Sahoo said on Wednesday as he asserted that liquidation is antithesis of resolution.

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code — implemented by the IBBI — provides for market-determined resolution in a time-bound manner.

Against the backdrop of many companies going for liquidation, Mr Sahoo said that when a new legislation comes, there are legacy issues and backlog of problems.

In the early days of IBC it is not surprising for many companies going into liquidation, he said, adding that going forward, there would be cases of companies having "enough enterprise value, which will be an incentive for the committee of creditors to preserve".

So far, more than 500 cases have been admitted by the NCLT for resolution under the Code. "When we are trying that the company should exist, the intention is not to sell it in pieces... Liquidation is anti thesis of resolution. When you talk about resolution, you don't talk about (selling)," the IBBI chairperson said here.

He was speaking at an interactive session with insolvency professionals and media about the new disclosure norms put in



If there is conflict of interest, if it comes to our notice, definitely we will look into it

— **M.S. SAHOO**
Chairperson, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India

place for insolvency professionals. The disclosure norms require these professionals to disclose their relationship, if any, with each stakeholder pertaining to a case under Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process.

The professionals have been directed to provide such details to the respective Insolvency Professional Agencies (IPAs) by Wednesday.

When asked whether the deadline could be extended, Mr Sahoo replied in the negative.

Without elaborating, he also said that there would be "consequences" in case an insolvency professional does not provide the required details within the deadline. — PTI

Walmart eyes stake in Flipkart

New Delhi, Jan. 31: Walmart Stores, the world's largest retailer, is in talks to buy 15 to 20 per cent stake in Indian e-commerce major Flipkart.

Walmart Global CEO Doug McMillon was in India recently and during the visit he also spent time at Flipkart's Bengaluru office, two executives said.

They did not wish to be named as the deal is yet to be finalised.

The US retailer may be looking to invest up to \$1 billion in Flipkart, sources said.

When contacted, a Flipkart spokesperson declined to comment.

"For Walmart, India is an exciting and priority market. Our Global CEO Doug McMillon was in the country for India Business Review for its all three entities — India Cash & Carry business, Global Technology Centre and Global Sourcing," a Walmart India spokesperson said.

The spokesperson added that it is "deeply committed" to the Indian market but declined to comment on "speculations". — PTI

TRAI REDUCES MNP COSTS BY 79% TO ₹4

New Delhi, Jan. 31: Telecom regulator Trai on Wednesday slashed mobile number portability rates by almost 79 per cent to a maximum of ₹4, citing lower cost and higher volumes for such transactions.

The prescribed ceiling for mobile number portability rates was ₹19, so far.

Trai, in a statement, directed the reduction in "per port transaction charge of Rs 19 to Rs 4 for each successful porting". "...the ceiling of charges leviable from subscriber stands automatically reduced to ₹4. However, recipient operators are free to charge a lesser amount from the subscriber for Mobile Number Portability," it said.

Put simply, the Mobile Number Portability or MNP allows telecom subscribers to retain their existing mobile number, even when they shift to another operator.

Trai had initiated a consultation process to review MNP charges in mid-December, and followed it up with an open house discussion on the issue on January 16.

The new charges will come into force from the date of notification in the official gazette, Trai said. — PTI

■ **TRAI HAD** initiated a consultation process to review MNP charges in mid-December, and followed it up with an open house discussion.



Young batting sensation Prithvi Shaw has been included in Mumbai's 16-member squad for the Vijay Hazare Trophy

Warner will be stung a little bit having had a disappointing one-day series, but he'll also be so excited about being captain of the team.



— Michael Hussey
former Australian cricketer

SHORT TAKES



Ramiz Raja

Ramiz all praise for coach Dravid

Karachi: Ramiz Raja has praised the role of legendary batsman Rahul Dravid in developing the young Indian players, and said Pakistan needs someone like him to unearth talent.

Lamenting the 203-run defeat at the hands of India in the semi-finals, Ramiz said he was pretty shocked at the margin of loss.

He, however, said it was not surprising, given the fact that Indian youngsters were better groomed and prepared to handle pressure situations.

"I am impressed with the temperament shown by some of the Indian players. They have a fine find in Shubman Gill and others. Rahul Dravid deserves lot of credit for preparing and grooming them so effectively," he said.

Ramiz said having someone like Dravid as their coach and mentor was a big boost for the Indian youngsters. "They learn such a lot from him not just about cricket but about everything else. How to conduct oneself, how to develop game sense and so on," he said. — PTI

SA finish fifth in U-19 World Cup

Queenstown (New Zealand): Fast bowlers Fraser Jones and Akhonya Mnyaka ripped through Bangladesh's batting line-up as South Africa scored a comfortable eight-wicket victory at the John Davies Oval to finish fifth at the ICC U19 Cricket World Cup, here on Wednesday.

Jones, playing only his second match of the tournament, grabbed five for 33 while left-arm bowler Mnyaka took three for 27 as Bangladesh were bowled out for 178 in 41.4 overs. The 2014 champions, put in to bat in the fifth-sixth position play-off match, quickly reached 180 for two in 38.3 overs as captain Raynard van Tonder played a fluent knock of 82 (99b, 7x4, 2x6) to tally his total runs to 384 in the tournament.

He joins former Proteas captain Graeme Smith as the joint-third highest aggregate of runs for a South Africa batsman in an ICC U19 Cricket World Cup.

"We did not play well in the quarter-finals, but the boys did well to come back strongly in the last two games," Van Tonder said. — AFP

India favourites to win: Ganguly

Kolkata: Former captain Sourav Ganguly on Wednesday tipped India as the favourites to win the Under-19 World Cup final against Australia on Saturday.

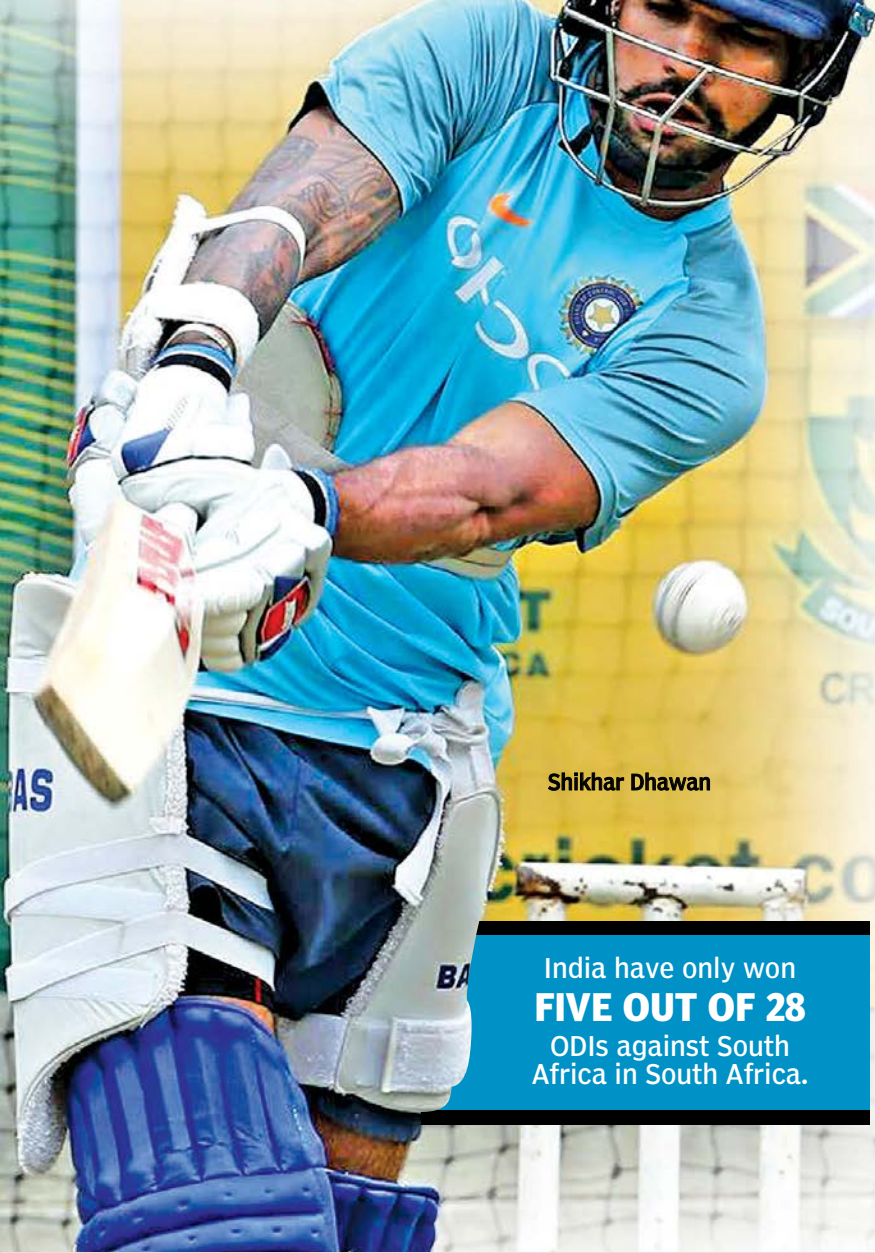
"India (will win U-19 World Cup). U-19 team is playing very well. There are immensely talented boys like Prithvi Shaw, Shubman Gill, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Shivam Mavi, Ishan Porel are players who have come up from the BCCI system. Our Board members have invested time to prepare them from the junior, under-19 and senior level," Ganguly said.

"You can't make players without structure. They are product of our system. In the next five years, barring Australia and England, Indian cricket will be the best in the world," he said.

Ganguly was full of praise for Bengal youngsters Ishan Porel and Kanishk Seth who bowled extremely well in the U-19 World Cup. — PTI

HISTORY BECKONS RESURGENT INDIA

VISITORS WILL BE AIMING FOR THEIR FIRST BILATERAL SERIES WIN IN SA



Shikhar Dhawan

India have only won **FIVE OUT OF 28** ODIs against South Africa in South Africa.

Durban, Jan. 31: Galvanised by the consolatory win in the final Test, a resurgent India will be aiming for their first bilateral ODI series triumph on the South African soil when they take on the Proteas in a six-match rubber, starting here on Wednesday.

With only 14 months to go for the 2019 ODI World Cup, India will also look to kick off their preparations in earnest during the series. India have a long limited-overs' schedule until their next big Test assignment this year.

They play six ODIs and three Twenty20 Internationals here, a T20I tri-series in Sri Lanka and then three ODIs and three T20Is in England and Ireland, with the 2018 IPL season thrown in, before the five-Test series in England later in August.

Such a definitive run of limited-overs' cricket, especially in overseas conditions in South Africa and England, will allow the Indian team management to round up the squad's core for the big tournament in 2019 and fix up certain spots which still need some work.

At the same time, the Men in Blue will be intent on winning their first-ever bilateral ODI series on South African soil.

India have previously lost 5-2 in 1992-93, 4-0 in 2006-07, 3-2 in 2010-11 and 2-0 in 2013-14. They were also part of two triangular series in 1996-97 and 2001-02, featuring Zimbabwe and Kenya respectively, but the Proteas emerged victors on both occasions.

So much so, India's ODI record against South Africa in South Africa is heavily skewed. In 28 meetings since 1992-93,

Live on TV
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4.30 pm

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the Proteas have won 21 matches, while India have only won five. Such a poor record will not sit well with the current team management that is intent on improving India's all-round showing in overseas conditions.

Additionally, India have a very lop-sided ODI record at Durban. In seven ODIs against South Africa at this venue, since 1992-93, they have lost six with one no-result. India did beat England and Kenya here though, during the 2003 ODI World Cup, giving them an overall two wins in nine ODIs at Kingsmead.

At stake, there is also the small matter of achieving the no.1 spot in ICC's ODI rankings. Currently, South Africa sit atop with 120 points while India are second with 119 points. While the ODI rankings change after every match, a cumulative 4-2 series' win will be enough to help India achieve the no.1 spot.

This should be motivation enough for Virat Kohli and Co., particularly as they will be taking the momentum into this ODI series, having assured themselves of finishing no.1 in the ICC Test rankings by prolonging their unbeaten record at the Wanderers last week.

South Africa won the Test series 2-1, but lost the third Test at Johannesburg by 63 runs. — PTI



M.S. Dhoni

MS Dhoni needs **102 runs** to become the fourth Indian batsmen to **10,000** ODI runs.

Expect India to challenge us: Faf

Durban, Jan. 31: South Africa captain Faf du Plessis on Wednesday acknowledged that it will be tough to beat India in the six-match ODI series starting ton Thursday and said the visitors' poor record here in the 50-over format will not be much of a factor.

India have only won 5 out of 28 ODIs they have played against South Africa in South Africa, have never won a bilateral series here or indeed beaten South Africa at Durban in ODI cricket.

"I think it (the poor record) tells a story. It means that there is something difficult for touring teams to come here and get accustomed to. But as I mentioned before the Test series, I feel like this Indian cricket team has got the names on paper to challenge that and get some victories in South Africa.

"They have proved that in the Test series and they are a quality team. So I

expect the same (challenge and intensity) in the ODIs coming up," said du Plessis on Wednesday.

South Africa won the Test series 2-1, but the Indian bowlers gave a good account of themselves picking all 60 wickets on offer. Du Plessis felt that this would be a factor in the ODI series as well, in both pace and spin, with India bringing fresh leg spinners into the mix.

"They are very good spinners. I've played against them (Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yada) obviously in the T20s and in the IPL. They have been very successful for India in the last while. ODI wickets here generally don't spin a hell lot so it depends on how the wickets play.

"But they have got more control. The benefit of having spinners like that is they are always looking to get wickets. And if you get wickets, you put pressure on the batting side," added du Plessis. — PTI

Rahane No. 4 candidate for WC: Kohli

Durban, Jan. 31: Indian skipper Virat Kohli on Wednesday said the experimentation in the middle order will continue for some more time though the conditions make Ajinkya Rahane a strong No. 4 candidate for the World Cup in England next year.

The Indian team had an optional practice session on Wednesday, with Kohli and pace bowlers taking a day off.

"We have explored many options in the last

few months. We don't have too many series and too much time left before the World Cup, so we want to explore all the options before the World Cup," Kohli told reporters.

"I had said earlier that Ajinkya Rahane would be looked at as a third opener but that situation can change because he has batted at No. 4 in a World Cup (in 2015) before. These conditions are such that you get to play fast bowling



Virat Kohli

throughout the innings so he becomes a strong candidate for No. 4.

"Other than him we have Shreyas Iyer and Manish Pandey. We don't want to be one-dimensional. It depends whose technique is more suited to what spot especially in that particular country. All options are open," he said further.

The rest of the batting order is more or less sorted, said Kohli.

"Although the lower

middle order is more or less sorted, the middle order is something we are still looking at. The combination is working well for us with Hardik Pandya, Kedar Jadhav and MS Dhoni rotating and batting together. No. 4 is something we have experimented with in the last couple of series. That is the only spot I can see that needs to be solidified otherwise the team looks pretty balanced," he added. — PTI

TON-UP MOMINUL POWERS BANGLA TO 374-4 ON DAY 1

Chittagong, Jan. 31: Mominul Haque hit a towering century to help Bangladesh take opening day honours in the first Test against Sri Lanka in Chittagong on Wednesday.

Mominul hit an unbeaten 175 as the hosts reached 374-4 at stumps after electing to bat first at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium.

The left-hander shared a 236-run third-wicket stand with former captain Mushfiqur Rahim, who fell just short of his fifth Test hundred after scoring 92 off 192 balls.

Skipper Mahmudullah Riyad, on nine, was batting alongside Mominul when stumps were drawn at the start of the two-match series.

Opener Tamim Iqbal gave the hosts a strong start with his brisk 52 and said it was "a fantastic day" for Bangladesh.

"We were very positive and attacking from ball one. It was nice to see."

Suranga Lakmal struck with the second new ball to claim two wickets off successive

deliveries and give Sri Lanka some respite late into the final session.

Lakmal, who returned figures of 2-43, forced Mushfiqur to edge behind the stumps after he had struck 10 fours in his relatively sedate innings.

The medium-pace bowler Liton Das for a duck with the next ball, which swung late to uproot the off-stump after the batsman had attempted to leave the delivery.

But Mominul was dominant at the other end, hitting 16 fours and a six off veteran spinner Rangaana Herath during his stay, which has lasted 203 balls so far. — AFP

Brief scores:
Bangladesh 374/4 in 90 overs (Iqbal 52, Mominul 175*, Rahim 92, Imrul 20, Lakmal 2/43) vs Sri Lanka.

Bangladesh's Mominul Haque celebrates his century against Sri Lanka. — AP



ICC to probe Ajman T20 league for match fixing

Sharjah, Jan. 31: The International Cricket Council's (ICC) anti-corruption unit is currently investigating a private T20 cricket league in the UAE which goes by the name Ajman All Stars League after an amusing footage of a series containing ridiculous dismissals emerged online.

The tournament which has been privately sanctioned by the UAE Cricket Board was forced to shut shop after just two days as the UAE officials blocked any further cricket action from occurring at the Ajman Oval. The highlights of the match between Dubai Star and Sharjah Warriors did the rounds on social media which witnessed shoddy dismissal — run-outs and stumpings.

With a total of 136 set on the scoreboard for victory, the Warriors were bowled out for a paltry 46 as their batsmen lost wickets at regular intervals.

While batsman in the shortest format of the game are known to give

● **The highlights of the match between Dubai Star and Sharjah Warriors did the rounds on social media which witnessed shoddy dismissal — run-outs and stumpings**

little importance to their wicket in search of runs quick and easy. Sharjah Warriors batsmen made it seem like the entire play was scripted. A couple of batsmen were seen charging down the wicket, displaying carelessness to make it back to the crease, while run-outs also occurred in similar fashion.

The bizarre nature of dismissals raised questions on social media and many members of the cricket fraternity also seemed surprised.

ICC anti-corruption chief Alex Marshall released a statement on Wednesday confirming the investigation was active.

— Agencies

BCCI BANS RAYUDU FOR TWO MATCHES

New Delhi, Jan. 31 Hyderabad skipper Ambati Rayudu has been handed a two-match suspension by the BCCI for breaching the Code of Conduct during his side's Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy match against Karnataka on January 11.

"Mr Rayudu is barred from participating in the first two matches for Hyderabad in the upcoming Vijay Hazare Trophy," a BCCI release said.

During the match Hyderabad's deep mid-wicket fielder Mehdi Hasan's foot had touched the ropes, but the on-field umpires did not check with the third umpire and signalled two instead of a boundary to Karun Nair. Karnataka ended their innings on 203/5. Tempers flared when two runs were added to the Karnataka total, owing to the umpiring error, the margin by which Hyderabad lost eventually.

— PTI



Juan Mata has contract at Manchester United extended for another year

Swansea were sharp, disciplined and hungry. Unfortunately I believe we were not good enough, we were not disciplined enough. It's better not to talk about the second or third goals.



— Arsene Wenger Arsenal manager after the loss to Swansea in the EPL

SHORT TAKES

Tomic keen on return to tennis

Sydney: Australian tennis bad boy Bernard Tomic said he had a “huge wake-up call” after taking part in a reality TV show, leaving the programme early to return to the sporting world. Tomic, 25, has been pilloried for his poor attitude during a season to forget in 2017 where he admitted he was bored, and earlier this month missed out on the Australian Open after losing in the qualifiers. He then took part in commercial broadcaster Channel Ten's reality show *I'm a Celebrity ... Get Me Out of Here!*, held in South Africa, but pulled out after just three days.

“I don't want to spend half my time depressed here and thinking about how I played the last year and where I should be,” Tomic said on the programme aired late Tuesday as he explained his departure to other participants. “And me being here with my thoughts now has just gave me a huge wake-up call ... I need to be competing and playing in what I do best and that's why I've decided to leave.” — AFP

Jr women's hockey camp from today

New Delhi: Hockey India on Wednesday named 21 players for the junior women's national camp that gets under way at Eknavya Sports Stadium in Agra on Thursday. Of those named, Bichu Devi Kharibam of MP Hockey Academy, Salima Tete, Sangita Kumari (both of Jharkhand), Uttara Pradesh's Mumtaz Khan were part of the India A team that took part in the Australian Hockey League in Perth last year. While Preeti and Chetan Rathi are products of the National Hockey Academy in the capital, the rest come from the junior core group. **Probables:** Goalkeepers: Khushboo (Bhopal), Bichu Devi Kharibam (MP Academy). **Defenders:** Priyanka (Haryana), Salima Tete (Jharkhand), Umra (Him), Antim (Him), Ishika Choudhary (MP Academy). **Midfielders:** Manju Chorsiya (Him), Baljeet Kaur (Punjab), Sadhna Senger (MP Academy), Jiwan Kishori Toppo (Gangpur Odisha), Pramanjali Toppo (Gangpur Odisha), Chetan Rathi (National Academy), Preeti (National Academy). **Forwards:** Sangita Kumari (Jharkhand), Deepika Soreng (Jharkhand), Mumtaz Khan (Uttar Pradesh), Lal Rindiki (Mizoram), Janhavi Pradhan (Gangpur Odisha), Amritpal Kaur (Chandigarh), Reet (Haryana).

PREMIER LEAGUE

Swansea shock for Arsenal

London, Jan. 31: Petr Cech's howler rocked Arsenal as they crashed to a shock 3-1 defeat at Swansea, while Liverpool cruised to victory over Huddersfield on Tuesday. Arsenal goalkeeper Cech's miscued attempt to clear allowed Jordan Ayew to slot home Swansea's second goal at the Liberty Stadium.

It was the killer blow for Arsenal, who had already seen Sam Clucas equalise just one minute after Nacho Monreal put the visitors ahead from Mesut Ozil's pass in the 33rd minute.

Clucas claimed his second four minutes from time to finish off Arsenal, who have now won just once in their last five league games.

The result leaves Gunners manager Arsene Wenger still searching for his first away win of 2018, despite a second-half debut for substitute Henrikh Mkhitaryan following his move from Manchester United.

The Gunners are in sixth place, trailing eight points behind fourth-placed Liverpool in the race to qualify for the Champions League via a top-four finish.

“I felt defensively we were very poor and made big mistakes. It's better



Arsenal's Henrikh Mkhitaryan in action against Swansea City in their English Premier League match at the Liberty Stadium in Swansea on Tuesday. The hosts won 3-1.

not to talk about the second or third goals.

“Swansea were sharp, disciplined and hungry. Unfortunately I believe we were not good enough, we were not disciplined enough,” said Wenger.

The result also completes remarkable back-to-back victories for

Swansea over Liverpool and now Arsenal.

They are out of the relegation zone and have transformed their season with three wins in five league games under new boss Carlos Carvalhal.

At the John Smith's Stadium, Liverpool got back on track in emphatic

fashion thanks to goals from Emre Can, Roberto Firmino and Mohamed Salah in a 3-0 win.

The Reds had endured frustrating defeats against Swansea in the league and West Brom in the FA Cup.

But Jurgen Klopp's men dominated possession and from the moment Emre

Can rocketed home a long-range opener in the 26th minute the result was never in doubt.

Firmino extended Liverpool's lead on the stroke of half-time when he somehow squeezed the ball home from the byline after being played in by a clever Sadio Mane back-

heel. Klopp had left Virgil van Dijk on the bench, but the absence of the club-record signing was hardly noticed as the Reds continued in cruise control.

Salah completed the scoring from the penalty spot in the 78th minute after Can was tripped up in the box. — AFP

INDIA OPEN | BADMINTON

Saina, Sindhu win; Prannoy ousted

New Delhi, Jan. 31: H.S. Prannoy lost in the opening round while Saina Nehwal, P.V. Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth advanced at the \$350,000 India Open Super 500 badminton tournament here on Wednesday.

Prannoy looked uncomfortable as he took the court against qualifier Shreyansh Jaiswal and lost 4-21, 6-21. Prannoy's movements were restricted by foot corns.

In women's singles, Saina defeated Denmark's Sofie Dahl 21-15 21-9, while defending champion Sindhu dumped another Dane, Natalia Rohde, 21-10, 21-13.

Saina will next face Denmark's Line Højmark Kjærskeld, while Sindhu will take on either Vaidehi Choudhari or Bulgaria's Linda Zetchiri in the second round.

Olympic champion Carolina Marin and Thailand's superstar Ratchanao Intanon too impressed in the women's singles while third seed



Kidambi Srikanth in action against Lee Cheuk Yiu of Hong Kong in the India Open first round match in New Delhi on Wednesday. Srikanth won 21-18, 21-18. — PTI

Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei and fourth seed Shi Yuqi from China looked good in their first round outings in the men's singles.

Second seed Srikanth, who is returning from an injury layoff, got past Hong Kong's Lee Cheuk Yiu 21-17, 21-18. The 24-year-old, who had a dream run in the 2017 season winning four titles out of the five finals he played, was content with his form and fitness.

“I have a tough draw and keeping in mind my recent form, I want to focus on getting back the momentum first,” he said.

Prannoy said the new Badminton World Federation schedule, which makes it mandatory for the top 15 singles players to play in 12 tournaments of the Super 1000, Super 750 and Super 500 series, left him with no option but to play through pain having missed the first two Super 500 tournaments at Malaysia and Indonesia.

“I had to participate in the India Open because of the new BWF rule of mandatory 12 tournaments. I couldn't even concede the match because I have a compatriot as opponent and according to BWF rules, if you concede against the same country opponent, you won't get ranking points, so I had to play though I am in no position to play,” Prannoy said.

Asked what was the injury, Prannoy said: “I developed corns in my foot in two-three places and I went for treatment. I will go for another procedure on Thursday. I couldn't train and picked up the racquet first time in 15 days.”

Among other Indians, B. Sai Praneeeth had to dig deep to see off 2010 Commonwealth Games silver medallist Rajiv Ouseph 21-11, 17-21, 21-17 while Aakarshi Kashyap and Ruthvika Shivani Gadde too crossed the first hurdle in the women's singles. — Agencies

Mumbai, JFC in battle of equals

IRFAN HAJI
MUMBAI, JAN. 31

After back to back losses at home, Mumbai City FC lifted the gloom in the dressing room with thrilling 4-3 away win over FC Goa on Sunday. They will now want to build on it to rejuvenate their campaign in the Indian Super League with another win against first time visitors Jamshedpur FC.

Both sides are similarly placed in the standings and the winners here on Thursday will climb into the top four. Jamshedpur are fifth with 19 points from 13 games while Mumbai are sixth with 17 points with a game in hand.

Like Mumbai, Jamshedpur are also here after a 1-0 away win against ATK. Steve Coppell's side have been compact in defence, conceding just 11 goals in 13 games. Both met at JRD Tata Sports Complex earlier this

LIVE on TV

Mumbai vs JFC
on STAR Sports 2, 2HD
@ 8 PM

month and were involved in 2-2 draw.

“You saw how in Jamshedpur we had a 2-2 result. Both teams wanted to win and the same will be true tomorrow. The prize is worth winning and both sides will very much be trying to win,” Coppell said.

Mumbai also have been strong in defence but have conceded 16 goals and six of them in the last two games. However, the good news is they scored four goals against fourth placed FC Goa.

Balwant Singh is the leading scorer with six goals but he has missed far too many chances. Thiago Santos, Leo Costa and Everton Santos will have to lift their game along with Balwant.

Mary Kom enters final, Shiva stunned

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JAN. 31

Five-time world champion M.C. Mary Kom advanced to the finals while Shiva Thapa and Manoj Kumar settled for bronze medals after semi-final losses in the India Open boxing tournament here on Wednesday.

Seeded 12th, Mary Kom (49kg) was up against gritty Mongolian Altansetseg Lutsaikhan. But Mary Kom gained the upper hand with her aggressive approach in the first two rounds. The Manipur boxer appeared tired in the final three minutes but managed to connect just enough blows to come up trumps.

Mary Kom faces Philippine's Josie Gabuco, who sent local favourite Monika packing with a dominant performance.

There was a major upset in the men's draw when world and Asian medallist Shiva (60kg), seeded top in his category, went down in a unani-



Shashi Chopra (left) lands a punch on Sonia in their women's featherweight 57kg category semi-final of the India Open boxing tournament in New Delhi on Wednesday. — PTI

INDIA OPEN | BOXING

mous verdict to Manish Kaushik.

Former Commonwealth Games gold medallist Manoj Kumar (69kg) also made a shock exit after going down in a split decision to Dinesh in a fiercely-contested bout.

In contrast, Asian bronze medallist and light flyweight (49kg) top seed Amit Panghal advanced to the final after a split verdict over compatriot Nutlai Lalbiakimma.

TK. Shyam Kumar (49kg), and Satish Kumar (+91kg) also made the finals.

In the women's draw, top seed L. Sarita Devi (60kg) managed to get a split verdict in her favour against Priyanka, in an evenly fought bout.

However, world youth champion Shashi Chopra (57kg) was upstaged by Sonia in a bizarre contest, in which both the boxers ended up being cautioned for being too defensive.

Khelo India Games declared open

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JAN. 31

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday declared the Khelo India School Games open at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, saying the event would highlight sporting talent and its potential to the world.

“Khelo India is not only about winning medals. It is an effort to give strength to a mass movement for playing more. We want to focus on every aspect that would make sports more popular across the nation,” the Prime Minister said.

He said it was important to develop the grassroot level. “We have decided to select 1,000 children every year from different sports and provide them ₹5 lakh per annum for eight years,” he said.

The KISG is being held across 16 disciplines in the U-17 category and 5,000 school children from 29



Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets Pulella Gopichand and P.V. Sindhu at the launch of the Khelo India School Games in New Delhi on Wednesday. — SONDEEP SHANKAR

states and seven union territories have arrived to participate in the event that ends on February 8. Meanwhile, Anu Kumar

of Uttarakhand grabbed the first gold medal of the Games, as Tamil Nadu won two of six gold medals on offer on the opening day of

the athletics programme. The other three were shared between Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.